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**Israel bound**  
The family of Hamas political leader Musa Mohammed Abu Marzook reacts while listening to his voice on a tape recording at a press conference in New York yesterday during which he announced he was giving up efforts to resist extradition to Israel. (Reuters)

## Syria won't budge on terms for talks

### Gold abroad to improve regional standing

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

Syrian Vice President Abdel Khadim Khaddam poured cold water on rising expectations that talks with Israel could be resumed anytime soon, announcing yesterday that Damascus would not budge from its insistence that talks continue where they "left off" under Labor.

Switzerland, but refused to say whether Gold was currently there. While attending an economic conference in Switzerland this weekend, Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are expected to meet to repair their frayed personal relationship. A meeting between Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is also expected.

Netanyahu's remarks raised expectations, as he signals that Mordechai, who has been named to head security talks with the Syrians, has ordered the IDF to look into yielding portions of the Golan that do not harm Israeli security.

## Avi-Yitzhak questioned secretly in Bar-On case - report

By RAINE MARCUS and MICHAL YODELMAN

Police secretly took evidence yesterday from attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak in "Bar-On for Hebron" case, Israel Radio reported last night.

It is still unclear whether Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be summoned to give evidence.

### Lieberman stunned as police probe falsification of IBA documents

By EVELYN GORDON and Jim

The reaction of Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, to not being officially informed police were investigating him for allegedly falsifying documents was "exceedingly harsh," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said last night in an interview with Channel 1.

Cindr. Sando Mazor met with State Attorney Edna Arbel yesterday to discuss the continuation of the investigation. Police are still at the stage of gathering information,

### Lieberman stunned as police probe falsification of IBA documents

informed him yesterday that they had found enough evidence to warrant an investigation, Cabel said. He then asked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to suspend Lieberman in light of the investigation.

and so far no one has been questioned as a suspect, according to a source.

The issue of going to court to request the lifting of journalist/source confidentiality also has not been decided, and police are reportedly gathering evidence from all those Hasson accused in her TV broadcast of being involved in the affair, before deciding how to proceed in the investigation.

## Ne'eman denies charges

By RAINE MARCUS

Former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman denied two charges of obstructing justice and giving false evidence in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

allegedly gave false evidence to police about a defense witness in the Aryeh Deri trial, Martin Brown. He is accused of lying about the date when he met Deri and trying to conceal the fact that he was in touch with Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak.



Ya'acov Ne'eman (Israel Sun)

## Even in a gas attack, men have right to a beard

By EVELYN GORDON

Secular bearded men no longer need to worry in case of a gas attack they won't lose their dignity.

and a half times the price of an ordinary mask, it cannot afford to supply them to people who do not really need them. Someone who cannot shave for religious reasons has a greater need than someone who merely likes his beard, the state said.

electric razor. Therefore, they concluded, the religious community's objection to shaving their beards boils down to the same objection as Akiva Nof's: That the beard is an integral part of their way of life, and they do not want to give it up.

would have to affirm that his beard is part of his lifestyle and removing it would impair his human dignity.

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# Cabinet approves Rubinstein

## Appointee's refusal to take polygraph test creates minor stir

By EVELYN GORDON

Jerusalem District Court Judge Elyakim Rubinstein was unanimously approved by the cabinet as the new attorney-general yesterday, despite a last-minute hitch caused by his refusal to take a lie-detector test. Rubinstein will take office on February 12.

The hitch arose over the General Security Service's insistence that all senior government officials, including the attorney-general, pass a polygraph test before they take office. Rubinstein has been a vigorous opponent of polygraph tests for years, arguing that they are not only notoriously unreliable but also violate the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. He has therefore refused to take a polygraph test in any of his previous senior governmental jobs, and refused to do so for this job as well.

In the end, the cabinet solved the problem

by setting up a high-level commission to study the entire issue of requiring polygraph tests from senior civil servants. The commission will be headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and will include the relevant ministers, representatives of the security services, jurists and Rubinstein himself, in his capacity as attorney-general. The commission is to complete its work within 60 days.

However, Rubinstein will essentially have veto power over the commission's decision because the attorney-general is the only person authorized to decide legal questions for the government. Thus if he decides the procedure is illegal, that settles the issue. It is only if he concludes that it is not illegal that the commission would be free to consider the question of whether it is necessary or wise.

Rubinstein made this clear in a written statement to the cabinet.

"If, after the discussion in principle is completed, the procedure mandating the use of a polygraph for security checks remains in force, with the agreement of the attorney-general, the attorney-general will also fulfill this requirement," he wrote.

At a press conference following the meeting, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi denied that Rubinstein's presence on the committee constituted a conflict of interest. If anyone suspects Rubinstein of allowing personal considerations to influence his decision, he noted, they can always petition the High Court of Justice and let that body decide.

"[Rubinstein] is not the only member of the legal community to raise doubts about this subject," he said. "But the legal question has never been decided."

Since most people do not object, he explained, there has not yet been a ruling on this issue.

Hanegbi said the lack of a polygraph examination will not prevent Rubinstein from taking office because many people do not take their tests until after they begin work. There is no legal obligation to take such a test, he added; this is merely a GSS demand which has become the norm over the years.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said this requirement had not always been in force, though he did not exactly know when the GSS had introduced it.

Meanwhile, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel asked Rubinstein yesterday to either take the test or refrain from entering office until the commission has finished its work.

"As a man known for his integrity and fairness, there is no doubt that he will not lend a hand to exempting himself from the principle that all are equal before the law," the movement said in a press statement.

## BACKGROUND

# Expert: Polygraph test is reliable

By RAINE MARCUS

Despite the reservations of Attorney-General-designate Elyakim Rubinstein, who has refused to submit to a polygraph examination, veteran polygraphist Ishaya Horowitz believes the polygraph examination is more reliable than other methods often used in security and other examinations.

"Even if it's not 100 percent reliable, it is a tool which is more reliable than other investigation methods and is an accepted practice here for all those requiring security clearances," he said yesterday.

However, Rubinstein called polygraph examinations notoriously unreliable and refused to submit to the General Security Service's demand that he undergo one before taking office. "The demand violates the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom," he said.

Speaking on Army Radio yesterday, Likud MK Gideon Ezra, who is former deputy head of the GSS, said that if Rubinstein is fully familiar with the polygraph examination "he would come forward of his own volition to undergo such a test. It can give authorities indications whether further investigations or inquiries are required or not. The poly-

graph can help decide, for example if someone gave a classified document to an unauthorized person," he said.

Although polygraph results are not admissible in court here, they may be used to further investigations or to dispel allegations. In Japan, Horowitz said, polygraph results are admissible, and in the US such tests are always used before appointing employees to senior and sensitive posts.

"The polygraph test is more scientific than other methods of security investigations," Horowitz said. "Other methods for security clearances used by the IDF and security services include questioning neighbors, colleagues and friends, former employees and even former army commanders whose human error mere gossip, the setting of old scores or personal opinion may determine the candidate's future."

In a polygraph test the subject is asked questions directly, which include "control questions" rather than questions being posed behind the subject's back, he added. Polygraphists only ask questions that can be answered by "yes" or "no" and do not relate to feelings, ideas, tendencies or attitudes. The polygraph works on various parameters - respiration, galvanic skin response and cardiovascular system.

# Abu Marzook to be extradited to Israel

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, the head of the political wing of Hamas, could be extradited to Israel within 60 days to face terrorism charges after he dropped an appeal in US federal court late Tuesday and did not seek political asylum.

"Because I can see no purpose served by staying here, I have instructed my lawyers to demand that the State Department effect my immediate surrender to Israel," Abu Marzook said in a taped statement that was broadcast yesterday at a press conference in New York.

Abu Marzook's attorneys contended that the charges against him "are based on a far-fetched theory of conspiracy." They also were

offended by the US federal judge, who, they said, had likened him to a Nazi by contending that Abu Marzook committed "crimes against humanity."

"I am ready to go to Israel where at least I will be afforded a hearing on these absurd charges," Abu Marzook, 46, said in his taped statement. "Ultimately I may stand a better chance before Israeli judges than before New York judges."

But, he added that "I also do not expect as a Palestinian political leader that I will receive fair treatment in Israel."

The decision to drop the appeal was not based on a single event, said attorney Michael Kennedy. Abu Marzook, who has been in solitary confinement in a Manhattan jail since he was detained at Kennedy Airport in

New York in July 1996.

Abu Marzook will be seen as a martyr, and his detention and extradition are "bound to play into the hands of extremists on both sides," said one of his lawyers, Cherif Bassiouni.

The attorneys expressed confidence in the Israeli civil court system but said they feared he would be tried in a military court, be interrogated by the Shin Bet and tortured.

There was virtually no mention of the PLO or Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat at yesterday's news conference, which was attended by Abu Marzook's wife, Nadia Al Ashi, and five of his six children.

In a statement, Al Ashi called on the State Department "to forego partisan politics and deny Israel's request for extradition. Although

Abu Marzook insisted he was innocent of the terrorism charges, "it has become apparent that my continued incarceration serves the political interests of the Israeli government," he said in the taped statement. "Regrettably, it seems that the United States has set aside all of its standards of justice in order to join with Israel in the political purpose of putting me in jail for no other reason than my leadership position in the political bureau of Hamas."

Bassiouni, an Egyptian who teaches at DePaul University's law school in Chicago and a major figure in UN's efforts to develop an international criminal court, suggested that Abu Marzook's detention essentially began with a mistake that later "snowballed."

Abu Marzook, who was born in a refugee camp in Gaza, had been

## AVI-YITZHAK

Continued from Page 1

In an interview with Army Radio, Kirschenbaum said, "There is no doubt that if a story of this magnitude blows up, and I have very good grounds to believe it won't, I will not be able to continue in my job."

Kirschenbaum said there was more than one source to the story, and the editors double-checked the story and "crossed their sources."

He said he had not commented on the affair to this day "because as soon as I speak out, it would be presented as a war between Kirschenbaum and Lieberman, or between Kirschenbaum and Netanyahu."

Kirschenbaum rejected the suggestion that if the story is proved untrue, it would pave the way to the privatization of the IBA.

"We have no interest in toppling the government or forming a new one. We are journalists and have no political interest whatsoever. All the names which people tried to attribute to us, including the prime minister, that the management is politically opposed to this government, are unfounded. The IBA has never supported or opposed one government or another," he said.

## LIEBERMAN

Continued from Page 1

investigations are opened against them. Lieberman knew that complaints about the issue had been filed against him and should not have been surprised by the investigation, police said.

Kahalani, however, said that Lieberman should have been informed, but that "the things he said were exceedingly critical. I think, that he will regret them, and I would request that he retract them. We have a good police force that performs it work loyally... in his position he needs to count to 10 before reacting."

The allegations stem from summaries of three full-length reports which Lieberman prepared for a cabinet meeting on the IBA in December. Cabel and several others - including the Movement for Quality Government in Israel and MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), who heads the Knesset State Control Committee - charged that Lieberman put several things in his summaries which did not exist in the original reports, thereby misleading the cabinet into thinking these statements and opinions were part of the original reports.

Lieberman has vehemently denied these charges, accusing opposition MKs of a "crusade" against him.

## US announces Shalikashvili retirement

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Israel's defense attaché here, Maj. Gen. Yaron Yair, said yesterday that the US retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Shalikashvili, would be remembered as a "very warm friend" of Israel who "succeeded in creating a very close relationship" with his counterpart, Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

The White House announced yesterday that Shalikashvili would be retiring after nearly four decades in the US military, including the last four years in the top position.

Yair said Shalikashvili "appreciated the IDF's achievements in different areas" and worked to strengthen military relations between the two countries.

During Shalikashvili's trip to Israel earlier this month, the American exhibited profound interest in Israeli and Jewish history and "was really moved by his visit," which included outings to Latrun and Masada, Yair said.

Shalikashvili, 60, visited Israel three times since succeeding Colin Powell as chairman. He plans to retire in September.



Mohammed Abbas, the father of slain terrorist Hassan Abbas, leans down to kiss the coffin of his son during his funeral in Gaza City yesterday.

# Bodies of two Hamas terrorists returned to Gaza

By JON BERMANUEL

Hundreds of Hamas supporters crowded the streets of Gaza yesterday to give a heroes welcome to the bodies of two killers returned in exchange for the Palestinian Authority's help last year in locating the remains of IDF soldier Ilan Sa'adon, who was kidnapped and murdered seven years ago.

The bodies of Hassan Abbas, who was killed while committing a terror attack in 1994 in Jerusalem's Mahalal Shiva quarter in which two people were killed; and Mohammed Jadalah, who was involved in the kidnapping of soldier Nahshon Wachsmann, were returned in pine coffins by a military truck at Erez checkpoint.

They were then carried by Palestinian police to a truck, taken

to Gaza city and covered with the Palestinian flag by crowds there during a funeral parade.

Wachsmann's father, Yehuda, said the return of the bodies would only act to encourage additional acts of Islamic terror. "These terrorists will become martyrs and a symbol for the children of Gaza."

He said no one, not the IDF nor the government, informed the family of the impending

exchange, and his family heard about in the media.

"Parents who have lost children are very sensitive, and therefore it would have been important to hear such a serious matter from official sources," he said. "I think the bodies should have been burned so they could not have been brought for Islamic burial."

Itim contributed to this report

To Hanani Rapoport  
Our sincere condolences on the death of your  
**Father**  
You are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.  
  
Kevin O'Hare and Janet Aquino  
ABC News  
London

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our mother  
**ZOLEIKA LEVY ז'ל**  
The funeral will take place today,  
Thursday, January 30, 1997, at 4:30 p.m.,  
at Givat Shaul Cemetery, Jerusalem.  
  
The mourners:  
Zion, Yaffa, Avner, Sinai, Carmel  
and their families  
Shiva at 32 King David Street, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-5695555.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear  
**ANELISE BLOCH FREUND**  
The funeral took place on January 29th in Kfar Shmaryahu  
Friends & Family

# A-Sanaa: I did not see excavations under Al-Aksa

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

MK Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) yesterday dispelled rumors that Israeli archeologists were excavating a tunnel under Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount.

Emerging from the disputed tunnel outside the Old City wall, a-Sanaa said: "I did not see excavations under Al-Aksa. The tunnel goes under the wall [in the direction of the Temple Mount]. But it is impossible to pass there because of the water that has accumulated."

According to accusations, allegedly started by the Waqf, Israel is excavating at the site and under the mosque in an attempt to cause the collapse of the Moslem place of worship.

A-Sanaa and Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way) had doffed their jackets and climbed down the narrow steps leading to a murky, musty drainage tunnel which runs outside the wall close to the mosque. They emerged at the other end of the tunnel, also outside the wall.

The tunnel exploration was the culmination of a visit by education

committee members to the site of the recent archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the Temple Mount. The visit was marked by noisy and often insulting exchanges between the Arab MKs and some right-wing Jewish MKs.

Antiquities Authority head Amir Drori, who was on hand to greet the MKs, explained that the two-year-long excavation project at the southeastern tip of the Western Wall had been completed and would be opened to the general public in May.

The project's main purpose was to reveal the Second Temple remains, he said. A 70-meter section of the 485-meter-long Western Wall had been exposed to its full height. The project also includes the restoration of a seventh century Moslem palace, he said.

Drori stressed that throughout the excavation period, the archeologists had been in touch with the Moslem waqf. The members of the waqf had been invited to attend the tour, he said, but declined.

"It is a hutzpa to present us with such a fait accompli," a-Sanaa declared.

This was the opening shot in a ver-

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
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**TENDER FOR THE BREAKING-UP AND/OR DISPOSAL OF THE ABANDONED BOAT, ROCKY, LOCATED ON THE GAN RAVEH BEACH TENDER 2/97**

This notice supersedes the tender announcement, published on January 16, 1997.

A. Bids are invited for the breaking-up and/or disposal of the abandoned boat, Rocky, located on the Gan Ravah beach.  
B. The technical specification can be obtained from the switchboard/cashier's room at the Shipping and Ports Authority, 102 Rehov Hatatzma'ut, Haifa, Tel. 04-8520241, Sunday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
C. A tour of the site for contractors will take place on February 5, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. - meet at the hillock on the Palmahim beach, opposite the wreck of the Rocky.  
D. Bids should be submitted in sealed double envelopes by 12 noon on March 12, 1997, to the Chairman of the Tenders Committee, Min. of Transport, 12th Floor, Clal Center, 97 Rehov Yafa, P.O.B. 867, Jerusalem 91008.  
E. Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes in 5 copies; envelopes should be marked "Tender for the Disposal of the Rocky, NCMPU Tender 2/97."  
The following should be attached to bids:  
1. Confirmation that the bidder is a registered trader.  
2. Confirmation from an Income Tax Assessing Officer that the bidder keeps accounts, as required by law.  
3. A bank guarantee for NIS200,000, valid for 60 days, made out to the Min. of Transport.  
4. Confirmation that the bidder is registered at the office of the Registrar of Contractors or, in the case of an overseas contractor, is registered as required by local law.  
F. The bid figure should not include Value Added Tax.  
G. The tender documents will be provided against payment of NIS300 (nonreturnable). Payment should be made, using a Postal Bank payment slip, or to the cashier of the Shipping and Ports Administration.  
H. Participation in the tender is subject to attending the site tour for contractors.  
I. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

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# Swiss seek document leaker

BERN (Reuters) - The Swiss government yesterday asked prosecutors to hunt for whoever leaked a confidential diplomatic report that angered Jewish groups and prompted the resignation of the Swiss ambassador to the United States.

The Federal Council, or cabinet, condemned the leak to Swiss media of a report that compared the dispute with Jewish groups over Holocaust accounts with "a war that Switzerland must wage."

The cabinet also named a successor to resigning Swiss envoy

Carlo Jagmetti, nominating Alfred Defago, who is now Swiss consul-general in New York.

"In addition, the Federal Council instructed federal prosecutors to open an investigation in order to identify the guilty person," a cabinet statement said about the leak.

"Besides the damaging effects this indiscretion had in the issue of dormant assets, it also calls into question the activities of all our diplomatic missions," it added.

The weekend publication of Jagmetti's internal report to the

Bern government revived Jewish anger just after Bern had calmed matters by agreeing to set up a Holocaust memorial fund with Swiss banks and businesses.

It also revived lingering resentment left after Swiss Economics Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz apologized this month for calling Jewish demands for compensation "blackmail."

The cabinet also urged the Swiss journalist association's self-regulatory body to examine the ethics of the publication of the leaked report by the weekly

*SonnagsZeitung* and the daily *Tages-Anzeiger*, both from the same publisher.

The cabinet rejected as "unacceptable" calls by one government party's executive board for Delamuraz to resign over the blackmail remark.

The board of the leftist Social Democrats (SP), the biggest of four parties in the center-left coalition that has ruled since 1959, at the weekend accused Delamuraz of unleashing a wave of anti-Semitism and urged him to step down.

Separately, the historian leading Switzerland's sweeping review of its World War II financial role yesterday recommended Swiss banks and other companies preserve all records on business they did from 1920 through 1950.

Jean-Francois Bergier, head of an international commission of historians named by Bern, set explicit dates for documents protected in general terms under a federal decree that set up the probe of Jewish bank accounts and Swiss business ties to Nazi Germany.

## Israeli Arab councils to renew protest

By DAVID RUDGE

Israeli Arab council leaders have decided to renew their sit-in strike opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem to press the government to bail out the financially crippled local authorities.

The decision to renew the strike on February 9, at the end of Ramadan, was taken at a stormy meeting of the secretary of the Arab Council Heads forum in Shifaram on Tuesday night. The participants accused the government of reneging on an agreement to cover deficits and increase budgets.

The Arab council heads had staged a sit-in protest for over five weeks in a tent they pitched opposite the Prime Minister's Office to press the government to cover debts and raise budgets to those of councils in the Jewish sector.

The campaign was called off two weeks ago after the Treasury and the Interior Ministry agreed to give the 54 councils an extra NIS 160 million for regular budgets, spread over three years, and an additional NIS 40m. this year for development projects.

A solution to the problem of accumulated debts, totalling over NIS 400m for all the councils, was deferred pending a meeting of the Efrat committee, which was due to give its recommendations at the end of this month.

The council heads charged, however, that they had since received a letter from the Interior Ministry stating that the promised additional funding would be conditional on the councils themselves increasing income from municipal taxes (*arnona*).

"The original agreement did not specifically state this condition, which is unacceptable as far as we are concerned," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

"This negates the agreement reached with the government that was signed by all the council heads, because it doesn't take into account the lower-than-average socio-economic condition of most Arab citizens," said Hussein, himself head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth.

The Interior Ministry, however, rejected the arguments, saying it had been made clear to the Arab council leaders that the additional funding would be conditional on their increasing municipal taxes and overall income.



### Happy Birthday Yosef Burg

Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev (left) hands Yad Vashem International Chairman Dr. Yosef Burg a present for his 88th birthday as the institution's international board convened for its annual meeting yesterday at Yad Vashem. The board released a statement lauding efforts to compensate Holocaust victims and calling on European governments and Jewish organizations to reject any attempts to label these efforts as blackmail. (Isaac Harari)

## Bill defeated allowing El Al to operate on Shabbat

By LIAT COLLINS

A bill proposing El Al operate on Shabbat was shot down in the Knesset yesterday when the coalition turned out in force for the vote while Labor MKs were largely absent or abstained.

The government broke off a meeting on the appointment of the attorney general for the vote on the bill, which was proposed by Avraham Poraz (Shimul-Meretz).

It was supported by 10 MKs, 32 opposed it and four abstained. During the plenum discussion, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) said he would like El Al to stop operations several hours before Shabbat and resume them several hours after it to prevent Shabbat desecration.

Levy also said he would like to close Ben-Gurion Airport on Shabbat, even for foreign airlines. He said his ministry holds that whoever buys El Al when it is pri-

vativized would have to promise not to operate it on Shabbat.

"Not everything can be examined from the point of view of the size of the check," said Levy. "There are other things a country must protect, even if there is an economic price for it."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu interjected from the plenum floor that Levy's opinion does not reflect the stand of the Prime Minister's Office, which is in charge of the privatization policy. He added that the ban on Shabbat flights for El Al is in force only as long as the company is government owned.

Poraz said a US consulting firm estimated that El Al loses some \$50 million a year because it does not fly on Shabbat.

He said these figures would prevent the successful privatization of the company.

## Ethiopians petition for immigrant visas

By EVELYN GORDON

Four hundred and eighty Ethiopian women petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the Interior Ministry's refusal to let them and their children immigrate under the Law of Return.

All 480 have been in Addis Ababa for several years, but have been barred from immigrating on the grounds that they are falash mura - Jews who converted to Christianity. However, much of the Ethiopian Jewish community considers them Jewish, and there has been an ongoing battle to get them to Israel.

In August 1996, according to the petition, Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, who heads the Chief Rabbinate's conversion department, visited the group, and authorized Rabbi Menahem Waldman to perform a process of formal conversion on the women.

This process includes an appearance before a rabbinical

court and immersion in a mikve. Waldman completed this process for all 480 over the next two months.

The group's attorney, Prof. Michael Corinaldi, then asked Interior Minister Eli Shibusse to grant the women immigrant visas on the basis of the conversions, since they had been approved by the Chief Rabbinate.

Corinaldi's request also stressed that all the women are of Jewish origin, which was one of Rosen's reasons for approving the process.

Kess Rafael Hadana, one of the leading keessim in the Ethiopian community, personally certified that each was originally Jewish, the petition said.

However, two months have gone by since this request was filed, and Shibusse has not yet responded. The group therefore decided to petition the High Court.

## KNESSET

briefs

### Third Way, UTJ meet to discuss conversions

MKs from the Third Way met with members of United Torah Judaism yesterday in the first of several meetings to discuss the parties' stand on issues critical to them. MKs from both factions denied the reports that the meetings were aimed at creating a deal under which the Third Way would support the Conversion Law in return for UTJ support of the so-called Golan Heights Law.

The meeting only addressed the issue of conversions. The Third Way MKs said they favor maintaining the current situation under which conversions in Israel would need the authorization of the Chief Rabbinate but non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad would continue to be recognized. UTJ is fighting the possibility that non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel would be recognized here.

### Bill on free education passes first hurdle

The Knesset passed the preliminary reading of a bill yesterday that would grant free higher education to residents of development towns and poor neighborhoods. It was proposed by MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor), who said it is intended as a means to close the social gaps between rich and poor and strengthen development areas.

### Bill would limit donations to PM candidates

A candidate for the prime minister's position would not be allowed to accept donations out of the framework of the Party Funding Law under a bill which passed preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday.

The bill was submitted by Yossi Sarid and Amnon Rubinstein (both Meretz) and was supported by the government. The bill would close a loophole discovered in the so-called Direct Election Law by which there is no concrete ban on a candidate for the premiership receiving donations not approved under the Party Funding Law.

### PM will try to include women in negotiations

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has promised to try to include women in the diplomatic negotiating teams. The promise was delivered by the Prime Minister's Adviser on the Status of Women Emunah Elon to Naomi Chazan (Meretz) in a meeting of the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women.

### Bill aims to ban overloaded trucks

The Knesset unanimously passed preliminary reading of a bill which would place a 60-day road ban on trucks found to be overloaded. The bill was presented by Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), who said it was aimed at fighting the increase in road accidents involving trucks.

### Bill would give grave desecrators 3-year term

A bill calling for a three-year prison sentence for anyone convicted of "illegally desecrating a grave or dishonoring the dead" passed preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday. The bill was submitted by Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party).

### Bill submitted on Jerusalem's status

Labor faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen has submitted a bill which calls for a 70 MK majority to approve changes in Jerusalem's status and municipal boundaries.

Cohen said in view of the talks on the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians, Jerusalem's status must be strengthened. "[Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu is likely to give in to pressure by [Yasser] Arafat and give up parts of Jerusalem," Cohen said.

## Nurses threaten to strike

By JUDY SEGEL

Nurses at most of the public hospitals threatened to hold a "general strike" early next week due to severe crowding in these institutions. Union head Hana Cohen said the nurses could no longer carry out their responsibilities professionally due to the 140 percent to 150% capacity of departments and patients in the corridors.

In letters to the prime minister, finance minister and health minister, Cohen urged them to come and see the situation in the hospitals with their own eyes. She accused Treasury officials of being responsible for the deterioration in the hospitals since September, when it

agreed to negotiate the matter of updating the 13-year-old official nursing standards. These set down how many nurses are required to treat patients in each department. Since then, nothing has been settled, Cohen claimed.

No comment was available from the Finance Ministry spokesman, but the Health Ministry said last night that in October a special committee representing the employers and the nurses was set up.

The committee is due to complete its work on nursing standards in March, thus "the ministry sees no reason to go on strike before all the deliberations are completed."

## Knesset image-building

By LIAT COLLINS

When an Israel Radio program asked listeners yesterday for possible slogans for the Knesset, it was flooded with suggestions like: "120 degrees below zero," "We're in the House, you'll do the work," and "Laughing all the way to the bank." The proposals show the extent of the problem facing Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who wants to change the image of the country's parliament. "We're very worried about the Knesset's image. Sometimes it is disastrous," Tichon said.

Tichon said he intends to establish a team of MKs to work on improving the public's perception of the parliament. He denied a *Yediot Aharonot* story that he had accepted the services of advertising company Gitam-BBDO to help on a voluntary basis. He said he met with Gitam-BBDO director Moshe Teomin, and the heads of many other companies, "to conduct with them, but the difference between that and actually hiring anybody is great."

The search for a better image comes shortly after Tichon fired the head of the Knesset's External Relations Department, Yair Amikam, and a month before spokeswoman Sarah Yitzhaki leaves after 26 years.

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# Bombay blaze kills three

BOMBAY— Fire spread through the top floors of a 25-story office tower today, killing three people and trapping others for about an hour high above the beaches of the Arabian Sea.

Firefighters' ladders reached to only the 14th floor, so rescuers had to bring people down the stairs to that level. About 21 people were evacuated through 14th-floor windows to safety.

The fire may have started in plywood and plastic being used for construction by an American consultant company on the 21st floor, said Deputy Chief Fire Officer M.G. Sarkod.

Three bodies were found on the 22nd floor, Sarkod said. He said the victims had suffocated.

The blaze began at Express Towers, in the prestigious Nariman Point business district, which houses the *Indian Express* newspaper on the ground and first floor, and a number of domestic and multinational companies and banks.

"Three people died in a room on the twenty-second floor that had been locked on the inside," said city official Shridhar Joshi.

A police official said the three dead men were local canteen staff working for Pfizer Ltd, a US pharmaceutical company.

A fire control room official said firefighters had put out the flames on the twenty-first floor, where the blaze apparently started, and had nearly extinguished the fire on the higher levels. Other Pfizer employees told how they fled the blaze.

"I was working in my office at 8:20 a.m. on the 22nd floor," said Roshan Sadhu, sales manager for Pfizer. "It was 8:22 when I heard the fire alarm bells and I came down by lift with a colleague and six canteen boys."

"The smoke was billowing, I couldn't see in front of my nose, suddenly a lift door opened in front of me and I got in," another Pfizer employee said, her lips still trembling with shock.

The fire broke out shortly after 8:00 a.m. as early office workers arrived at their desks.

A couple of hours later the building would have been filled with around 5,000 office and newspaper employees. Bank of America and Bank of India both

have their main Bombay offices in Express Towers.

Other companies located there include German pharmaceuticals firm Bayer, the German airline Lufthansa, and multinational advertising agency Lintas. A branch of the State Bank of India is also in the tower block.

City officials said firemen had rescued six people who were trapped in an elevator on the twenty-first floor while the fire was blazing.

Vivek Goenka, the managing editor of the *Indian Express*, and his wife Ananya were in their penthouse suite when the fire broke out. "We heard the alarms, saw the smoke billowing and then security came up to escort us down. We came down by elevator because the fire had not spread at that stage," Ananya Goenka said.

She said other people had fled to the rooftop terrace and who were later brought down by a staircase, but a naval helicopter circled the tower in case an airlift was needed.

Around 30 fire engines and 280 firemen and officials helped fight the blaze. (News agencies)

# Court confirms Bhutto dismissal

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Pakistan's Supreme Court said yesterday it had upheld President Farooq Leghari's dismissal of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, which means general elections will proceed as planned on February 3.

"There is enough material to establish corruption, nepotism and misuse," Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah said at the end of a hearing which began on January 13.

"We uphold the order," he said of Leghari's dismissal of Bhutto on November 3.

But Bhutto shrugged off the ruling. "This is nothing unexpected," she told a news conference at her home in the southern city of Karachi during a break from election campaigning.

"I knew they were going to give a decision against us."

"Every time the Bhutto family goes to the court, the decision is different. Every time the decision for the Bhuttos is unfavorable," she said.



Outset prime minister Benazir Bhutto adjusts her shawl during a press conference at her Karachi residence yesterday. (Reuters)

Witnesses said the verdict was followed swiftly by clashes between police and Bhutto supporters outside the Islamabad court. They said police baton-charged stone-throwing demonstrators who were chanting pro-Bhutto slogans. There was no immediate word on injuries or arrests.

The Supreme Court's keenly awaited judgement, by a 6-1 majority of the seven-judge bench, also meant those who bought on the stock market in anticipation of such a decision had won their bets.

The stock market index in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, rose 11.11 points, or 0.74 percent, on Wednesday and traders said speculators had moved it on hopes of the verdict going against Bhutto. Brokers said prices surged in after-hours trading following the Supreme Court verdict.

They said prices were likely to continue climbing on Thursday with some predicting the Karachi stock index could rise another 70 points.

Several top businessmen also said they were happy with the verdict. "The judgment is good for the country and the economy," said Maqbool Sadiq, head of the Karachi Cotton Association. Cotton and cotton goods are major Pakistani exports.

Leghari dismissed Bhutto's government on November 5, accusing it of corruption and mis-

rival, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The latest poll, by Gallup Pakistan and published in *The News* English-language daily, said 40 percent of its 2,000 respondents polled across the country planned to vote for the PML against just 20 percent for the PPP.

fresh elections are set for February 3 and opinion polls show Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) trailing her main

management

# Serb protesters take back the streets

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Thousands of Serbian students blocked a main Belgrade square yesterday as pro-democracy demonstrators grew bolder in the 11th week of protests against the annulment of opposition municipal election victories.

An estimated 20,000 students packed into Slavija Square, halting traffic. Riot police were not in sight and a few traffic policemen nearby made no effort to intervene. The students, blowing whistles and yelling slogans, then marched along main boulevards, encountering no resistance.

It was the second day in a row that riot police had all but disappeared from the streets.

This month they had stopped students from marching for eight successive days and had been generally enforcing a ban on protest marches.

A student organizer said the cash-strapped Serbian government simply could not afford the cost of containing the demonstrations.

"The daily cost of police is two million German marks (more than \$1 million)," Mirjan Antonic said. "Furthermore I think we have won." The protests began in November when the government, alleging voting "irregularities," annulled victories by the Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition in 14 cities, including Belgrade.

The demonstrations have presented Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic with the most serious challenge to his 10 years in power.

A Russian envoy said Milosevic would soon make proposals to end the impasse and had agreed the use of force would not provide a solution.

# Biko doctors to face probe

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - State doctors who failed to treat apartheid icon Steve Biko after he was tortured and beaten by security police will be examined by South Africa's Truth Commission.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is to hold a special hearing in June on the role of doctors and other health-care professionals in perpetuating, colluding with and preventing human rights violations," commission member Wendy Orr said in a statement yesterday.

"One of the special submissions planned for the hearing is on the death of black consciousness leader Steve Biko." No one was prosecuted for Biko's death in 1977, but state doctors Ivor Lang and Benjamin Tucker were dismissed from the profession years later for faking reports on his health and failing to treat his injuries.

In August last year the Medical Association of South Africa apologized for the first time for "insensitive and indifferent actions" on behalf of black members and patients. Five former policemen announced through their lawyer on Tuesday that they would seek amnesty for killing Biko while he was detained in an apartheid prison.

A commission official said, however, there had been no word yet from the state doctors who turned a blind eye to his injuries.

Commission spokesman John Allen said yesterday the ex-policemen would have to take their place in a queue of over 4,500 people seeking amnesty for politically motivated crimes committed in the struggle over apartheid.

"We are legally obliged to give precedence to people who are in prison. It will be a number of months before we hear public testimony about how Biko died," he explained. He said the TRC investigative unit would examine the evidence submitted by Biko's killers and would determine whether they had met the requirement for full disclosure.

White Afrikaner legislator Nic Koonhof told Reuters the confession that Biko was killed and did not die as a result of any accident was not unexpected, but had still come as a shock.

# Dan Rather identifies 1986 black mugger

NEW YORK (AP) - TV news anchorman Dan Rather has identified the man who more than 10 years ago yelled, "Kenneth, what's the frequency?" before knocking him to the ground and kicking him.

Rather said the man is William Tager, now in prison for shooting an NBC technician to death outside a television studio in 1994.

Rather, whose name and face are well known in the United States,

was confronted on the night of Oct. 4, 1986, as he walked home from a friend's apartment. He was knocked down and kicked in the neck and kidneys.

The attack had been a mystery to Rather of the "CBS Evening News With Dan Rather." He identified Tager after he was shown pictures of the man by the *Daily News*.

"There's no doubt in my mind that this is the person," he said.

# Egyptian army destroys Christian charity

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Egyptian army has destroyed a half-built Christian institute for handicapped children outside Cairo, sources close to the institute said yesterday.

The Coptic Christian charity which runs the institute has complained to the authorities about the incident in December but has not yet received a reply, added the bishop in charge.

"The army brought bulldozers and other equipment and razed the buildings to the ground. Some of them were three-storey build-

ings. They will have to restart from scratch," said one source who saw the site both before and after the incident.

The buildings, about 25 km northeast of Cairo, were meant to provide more space for children in the care of the Cheerful Heart Centre for the Mentally Disabled.

Bishop Boutros, chairman of the board of the St John the Divine Institution for Development and Social Services, said he did not know what the army's motive might have been.

# Frocks away as Diana sells off

LONDON (Reuters) - Princess Diana - queen of lame, lycra, silk and sequins - plans to sell some of her vast wardrobe to help charity and refashion her image.

Designers say Diana just wants fresh cupboard space. But a spokeswoman for the Princess of Wales confirmed yesterday that Diana had held talks with Christie's auction house about a charity dress sale later this year that the press is gleefully dubbing the "jumble sale of the century".

"We are not in a position to reveal any details but I can confirm discussions have taken place with Christie's about a proposed charity sale," said the spokeswoman for Diana.

Christie's confirmed talks were underway for a sale that could raise a million pounds (\$1.6 million) for some of the causes Diana champions, such as AIDS and cancer research.

While not quite a case of the empress having no clothes, Diana's plans to sell off a small corner of her fabled collection is an unprecedented move by a British royal.

The Daily Telegraph said Diana - who singlehandedly put mori-

bund British fashion back on the map and the rest of the drably-clad royals to shame - planned to auction 65 gowns, many bearing the top designer names of the 1980s.

The paper said the ex-wife of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles wants to shed her image as high-class clothes horse and "pursue a new role outside the conventional royal mould".

"The princess is keen to put the years as a fashion icon behind her and hopes that such a move will increase public attention to her work," said the paper.

But Diana's spokeswoman played down talk that the princess planned to donate her wedding dress - an ivory froth of flounces and bows - to London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

"No discussions have taken place with the Victoria and Albert," she said of the celebrated wedding gown that changed a frumpy girl into a woman worth watching.

Indeed, nobody could have guessed that the chubby virgin who was to wed Britain's future king would later blossom into the sleek, leggy woman packed into silver lame and strappy silk.

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FLAIR

Making a spectacle of ourselves

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

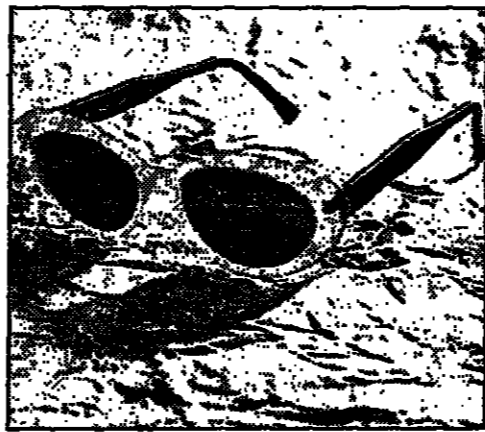
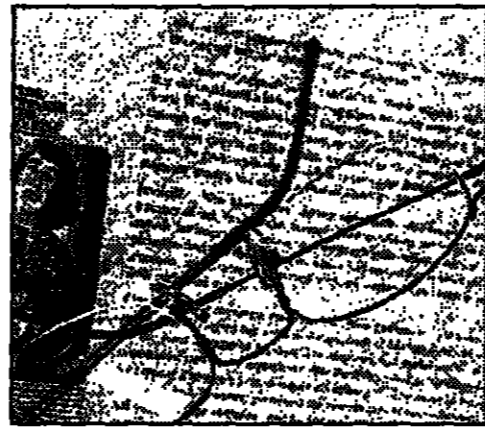
Eyewear, in addition to being a corrective aid, has always been a fashion accessory well. Many people, especially women, in addition to having a change of bands and settings for their watches, also have several pairs of eyeglasses with different colored frames to suit specific garments and occasions.

The fashion aspect of spectacles is what has prompted many designers to branch into this line. One of the most recent is Gershon Bram, who has produced a significant range of super-light sunglasses for Galil Optic. The frames are made of feather-weight plastic, some of it metal coated. Just as retro trends permeate collections of clothing, their influence is also seen in eyewear, with the Fifties, particularly Jacqueline Kennedy, as inspiration. The essential difference is that the materials used today are much lighter and therefore more comfortable.

This applies equally to reading glasses. Although Galil Optic has already acquired an international reputation, it can't quite match that of Anglo-American, London, a quality firm which has been around since 1882. Anglo-American cellulose acetate frames are now available in Israel. The marketing franchise was acquired by Hani Barnea and Esther Zmorchinski, who are distributing them through their New Look company.

Even more retro than the Fifties are the Gipsy rimless and semi-rimless reading and sunglasses which are reminiscent of eyewear worn over a century ago. The half-frames are made of stainless steel and the functional finished product aptly conveys its purpose: all the better to see with.

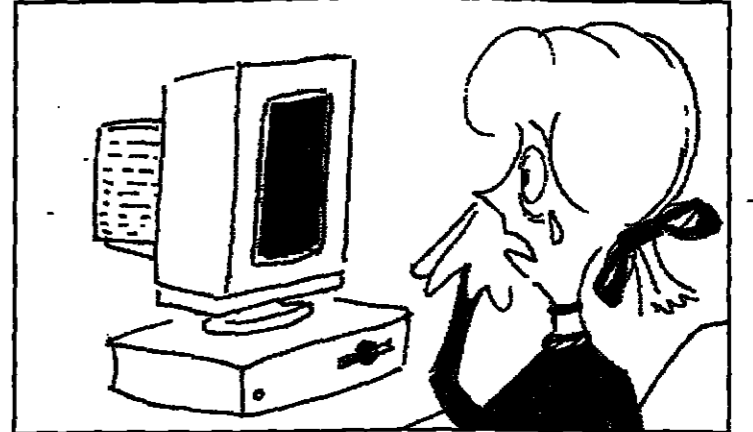
While Gipsy exudes a sense of severity, Prince of Italy, with its more shapely, elliptic frame, is not only more fashion conscious but also less expensive. The Gipsy price range is from NIS 285 to NIS 545, while Prince runs from NIS 250 to NIS 480.



Eyewear for the fashion conscious includes designs by (from top clockwise) Anglo American London Eyewear, Gipsy, Gershon Bram and Prince of Italy.

The funeral will be held at http://www...

Can't make the funeral? Just log in. 'Virtual funerals' are available on the Net, Allison Blankstein Nazarian reports from NY



The "virtual world" is extending to the "virtual after-world."

Funerals have become the latest life-cycle event that can be virtually experienced on the Internet. Simplex Knowledge Company, a software developer, has created Cybermourning, a video system created for funeral homes that allows mourners to participate in funerals via their personal computer.

"People don't grow up and die in the same neighborhoods anymore," said Jack Martin, the president and owner of Simplex, based in White Plains, New York. Distance, cost and jobs are among the factors that have contributed to what Martin said is a decline in funeral attendance in the US. "People physically cannot attend funerals anymore," he said, adding that this software fills the gap.

Cybermourning is being marketed to funeral homes, which, in turn, customize the virtual funerals according to their clients' wishes. Options for funeral websites include chat rooms where the virtual visitors can communicate with those who attend in person; video images that are transmitted from the service and updated every 30 seconds; and even subtle advertising for the funeral

home's various services.

Each service has a different web address and a secret password, which only the family can give out. "It's not like you can cruise the Internet and crash someone's funeral," Martin said.

"Some say this software sanitizes or packages death as a commercial product, but the reality is that death is already a commercial product," he said. "That's what funeral homes are for." But Jewish funeral directors are not convinced. "It just doesn't sound like something that would appeal to us," said Sonny Levitt, vice president of eight funeral homes in south Florida.

"With Jewish funerals, people want to be there, to be a part of the shiva, to be a part of the mourning process," said Barry Wien, president of five funeral homes in northern New Jersey and New York.

"People are more spread apart, but they do come in for a funeral." But, he said, "I think it is a wonderful thing for an isolated case where for some reason somebody can't come and wants to participate."

However, Levitt noted, not everyone has a computer, especially among the senior-citizen population, and those who do may not know how to download the necessary programs. And because Jewish

funerals usually take place within 24 hours of the death, the logistics of informing and educating mourners about the software is prohibitive.

One of the commandments of mourning is comforting the mourner, said Daniel Kramer, an Orthodox rabbi in New York. If this cannot be done in person, the phone or Internet can be an option, but not an equal substitute. He cautioned that with each step away from full personal contact, the level of fulfillment of the commandment decreases.

There is also a danger of using new technology as a "cop-out or an excuse to miss a funeral," Kramer warned. But he said, "In general, anything that allows people to pay their respect if they cannot be there personally is meritorious."

Software such as Cybermourning is "almost too convenient," said Jay Rosenbaum, a Reform rabbi who is an officer of the New York Board of Rabbis. If there is an extreme case in which there is no other method for connection, the Internet can be a viable option, Rosenbaum said. But he foresees little need for such software at Jewish funerals. "The Jewish community has by and large made the decision that there is no substitute for being at the chapel, at the cemetery."

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

By RUTHIE BLUM

Having grown up in New York City, I'd never known that there was such a thing as a fuse box, let alone where it was located. In those days, as far as I could tell, hot water was one of nature's elements which just happened to flow freely from the left side of the tap. And appliances ran by mere virtue of having been plugged into an outlet.

It was not until I moved to Israel that I learned to plan a shower, and "stagger" my machines. Very quickly I learned to locate my fuse box, wherever it was living. I even came to know which little levers controlled which circuits - information invaluable when planning a shower, doing the laundry and baking a cake simultaneously.

What I did not know at the time was that the standard amount of

amperes provided by the Israel Electric Corporation for regular home use (as opposed to restaurant/factory use) was a single phase of 25 amps. What I also did not know was that most heavy-duty appliances in Israel use up to 16 amps each. No wonder, then, that more than one large machine in operation at any given time was extending the limit. Hence, the fuse tripping and hence the necessary "staggering."

A few years ago, the IEC Consumer Division issued new regulations regarding the supply of electricity to individual homes. This was to "answer a growing demand" among Israeli consumers and to "improve the quality of the supply of electricity." According to the new regulations, homes built after December 1988 would be eligible for an electricity "upgrade" to 40 amps on a single phase;

homes built subsequent to that date would automatically be equipped with 40 amps - now the "standard." Three phases could be installed (from 25 amps per phase and above) without regard to these regulations.

A short while later, I began renovating a dilapidated old house, in which the electrical wiring was in an atrocious state and needed total overhaul. This would be the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the new IEC regulations. Instead, I was urged to install three phases. The high cost of installation would be a small price to pay - I was told by several mavens (among them a friend employed by the IEC) - for the luxury of never tripping a fuse.

Taking "three-phase" to mean a "triple" supply of electricity, I was sold on the idea, and went ahead with it. For the next few years, all was well with circuit

and fuse box. Happily, I ran dishwasher and washing machine, oven and boiler with little ado.

According to consultant electrical engineer Jonathan Greenstein, the smooth running of my electrical system had to do with proper balancing more than with three phases. Apparently the heavy-duty appliances in my home ended up being balanced appropriately between the three phases. Had my dishwasher and washing machine been on the same 25-amp phase, I would still have had to deal with fuse tripping. In other words, though I imagined that my house was being supplied with 75 amps, it was actually giving me less use of these amps than if I had installed a single phase at the same number of amps.

So, what's the catch? The IEC will not allow homes to have a single phase providing more than 40 amps, though it will allow us

to have three phases with as many amps as we want. According to Greenstein, this is as "much hogwash as it is white wash. It is also a waste of electricity potential, since it is extremely rare for individual families to require large numbers of amps on each phase but important to have enough amps in the home to service modern household appliances.

In the UK, for example, homes can have up to 100 amps on a single phase, which is equivalent to the 200 amps available in the US. In Israel, he claims, there is no reason not to follow suit, other than the "good ol' boy" network of "protectionism for the country's electricians and electrical engineers."

Greenstein has been leading a personal crusade to convince the IEC to change its system. As of yet, he has been given no satisfactory reply to his questions.

In the meantime, let us beware of the following:

When purchasing an appliance, always find out the number of amps it uses. While Israeli appliances are never more than 16 amps (with the exception of the Atmor electric shower, which is 20-22 amps), American and English appliances are up to 45 amps. (Such appliances would not suit a home here, unless it had three phases of over 45 amps each.)

Also keep in mind that standard circuits in this country are 16 amps. (The circuits are the smaller "branches" of the phase.)

Before planning the electrical system of a home you are building - or before upgrading your existing system - consult with an electrical adviser. It is imperative that all major appliances be balanced properly on circuits and phases. And finally, beware of the dan-

gers involved in three-phase electricity:

Firstly, a loose neutral wire in the main fuse panel can cause the voltage level on each of the phases to swing violently. This can cause certain appliances to burn out.

Secondly, there is greater danger of electrical shock prior to the tripping of the *nimsar pehat* (the anti-electrocution lever). For real safety, you'd need an anti-electrocution device on each of the three phases.

For further details and information about your current current, you can contact Jonathan Greenstein at POB 4525, Jerusalem 91044. Phone/Fax: (02) 566-3510.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Blowing a fuse over the electricity system

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## Playing the Lebanese card

In a characteristically iconoclastic speech this week at Tel Aviv University, Labor MK and party leadership candidate Yossi Beilin called for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. IDF Intelligence chief Moshe Ya'alon, speaking from the same podium, rejected Beilin's suggestion, saying that the residents of northern Israel would suffer.

According to Beilin, "We have become hostages in Lebanon. Our soldiers are sitting targets for Hizbullah. We need to get out unilaterally with the help of a third party." As part of this proposed deal, the Lebanese army would incorporate most of the South Lebanese Army (SLA) and would disarm the Hizbullah militia.

The idea of a unilateral withdrawal, combined with substitute arrangements to protect Israel's interests, should not be rejected out of hand. The scenario that Beilin describes - Hizbullah disarmed, the SLA absorbed, and an international force keeping terrorists away from Israel's border - is practically idyllic from Israel's perspective. In fact, one might ask why, if such a plan is feasible, has it not been done long ago.

The question is whether such a plan is any more realistic than Israel's current goal of negotiating with Syria a withdrawal from Lebanon. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's initial foray into the Syrian track was the "Lebanon first" proposal. Rather than tackle the difficulties of a Golan deal, he proposed reaching agreement on Lebanon that would sidestep both sides' main goals - the Golan for Syria and a peace treaty for Israel - and instead aim for a less comprehensive outcome.

The Netanyahu government never provided full details of its "Lebanon first" idea. One concept is that the Lebanese army would disarm Hizbullah and effectively take the place of Israel in securing the Lebanese border. Given that Syria is happy to maintain a proxy guerrilla war against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, Syria is likely to prevent the Lebanese government from accepting such a proposal.

Another version of a limited "Lebanon first" agreement between Israel and Syria would have Israel leaving Lebanon, Syria allowing Hizbullah to be disarmed by the Lebanese and ending its support of Palestinian terrorism against Israel (and Turkey and Jordan), and the United States taking Syria off the list of pariah states subject to economic sanctions. In essence, Syria would relinquish its terrorism card in order to end its economic isolation, and Israel would leave Lebanon as part of the bargain.

Both of these proposals depend on Syrian agreement. By proposing a "unilateral" withdrawal, Beilin attempts to skirt the need for Syrian agreement, and substitutes instead the concept of a third party force. The question is whether Israel's interests can really be safe-

guarded by such an international force, and whether the Beilin proposal is any less subject to a Syrian veto than the other "Lebanon first" scenarios.

A major element in determining what it will take to protect Israel's border following an Israeli withdrawal is discerning Hizbullah's intentions and capabilities in such a case. Having dedicated itself to ejecting Israel, would its support diminish drastically if it were to continue fighting against Israel across the border? How effectively could the Lebanese army take control of the area, disarm Hizbullah, and secure the border? In essence, the viability of any of these options depends greatly on how serious the two major outside players, France and the United States, would be in pushing for at least a partial solution to the Lebanese dilemma.

It is arguable that even if France and the US could not compel Syria to reach an agreement directly with Israel, they could prompt Damascus to stand by as they pave the way for Israel to leave Lebanon. Such a US-French initiative would, after all, be demanding that the Syrians acquiesce to something that Syria supposedly not only supports, but demands - the withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon. Syria would be on very weak diplomatic ground, to say the least, if it were to object to an internationally guaranteed Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory.

It would be naive, of course, to believe that there is a limit to Syria's cynicism in this matter, or that Syria will readily hamstring its ability to use terrorism and proxy warfare as centerpieces of its foreign policy. But neither should the international community act as if it is without recourse in dealing with Syria.

To take one small example, the United States could reverse its just-revealed policy of waiving sanctions to allow exports that do not contribute directly to Syria's ability to support terrorism. Other nations on the US terrorism list, such as Iran and Iraq, do not enjoy such an exemption, and it could be revoked from Syria either by the administration or the Congress.

The US and France could also threaten to start calling a spade a spade and say that Syria is holding up the peace process, and violating the Taif Accords requiring its partial withdrawal in Lebanon.

The idea of "Lebanon first," in any of its permutations, should not be thought of as a dead letter - it depends on whether outside forces wish to breathe life into it. A serious push to call Syria's bluff in Lebanon and facilitate an Israeli withdrawal could even have another important benefit: It could increase Syria's incentive to engage in direct talks with Israel. Syria could view restarting the frozen talks as the lesser evil which would distract outside forces from pressing for a "Lebanon first" scenario.



## Tears & glee

LARRY DERFNER

I can't go along with the official line on the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" affair - that we all fervently hope the story isn't true. In fact, the thought that Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson's story isn't true makes me queasy.

As Razi Guterman, head of the journalists federation, puts it: "God forbid" this story doesn't pan out. We media types will be eaten alive.

I hear cheering out there. You see my point? There are masses of Israelis just licking their chops, waiting for us journalists to fall hard on our faces so they can kick us and jump up and down on us.

I'd rather they didn't have the satisfaction. But that's just a personal and collegial interest. I also have a high-minded, altruistic concern here.

Alright, agreed, the Israeli media spew out a lot of garbage. There are loads of stories based on nothing, the lowest, cheapest kind of tear-jerking and hysteria-mongering - and, yes, politically slanted reporting, mainly from the Left, sometimes from the Right.

But the news media aren't all bad all the time. Sometimes the story is right, as in correct. Maybe even most of the time.

And if Channel 1 screwed up this colossal story, no news organization will be able to run a critical piece or expose on the Netanyahu government and expect to be believed. Journalists will be more or less neutralized.

This would not be good for the Jews. Compared to this, I'd rather see the government fall. But as a friend of the Oslo accords, I don't want to see Netanyahu leave office, at least not for awhile. The

## However the 'Bar-On-for-Hebron' affair ends, the public gets what it wants

huge support for the Hebron agreement showed there are big advantages to having a right-wing regime manage the peace process through its middle stage, and - who knows? - maybe all the way to the end.

Ideally, then, I'd like to see the "Bar-On for Hebron" story turn out to be true in a way that would spare the government but topple the heavies in this tale - Shas MK Arye Deri, political fixer David "Dudi" Appel and prime ministerial enforcer Avigdor "Ivet" Lieberman.

DERI isn't alone in this wish. Deri is up to his kippa in corruption charges. Appel, a very rich building contractor, is accused in court of cheating former transit camp residents in Kfar Saba out of NIS 2.4 million in government compensation.

Lieberman is merely the most feared individual in the administration, supposedly a regular Prince of Darkness. Besides their friends - and, in Deri's case, the Sephardi baredim - is anybody crying for these guys? Anybody roving, "Arye, Dudi, Ivet, say it ain't so?" There wouldn't be any damage to the system, no outpouring of sorrow, if this ferociously powerful trio took a fall.

On the other hand, if Channel 1's story evaporates, we lose Israel Broadcasting Authority head Mordechai Kirschenbaum, who's probably done more good things for Israeli television than anybody else; ITV director Yair Stern and news editor Rafik Halaby, two of the country's best journalists; and Ayala Hasson, whose accuracy is still in question, but whose bravery isn't.

And we may well lose ITV altogether. Coming from America, I've always been a defender of Channel 1. After watching an evening of American TV, you're stupider, than when you started; after an evening of Channel 1, you're smarter.

So I have a very clear set of interests in "Bar-On for Hebron" being true. But I think the bulk of the public may be less partisan. The Israeli "common man" looks at this story and says: If it's true, some politicians, a contractor and maybe a lawyer or two go down. If it isn't, a bunch of mediocrities are finished. I'm in a win-win situation. I can just sit back and enjoy this.

So enough sanctimony. There's something in this scandal for everyone. Whichever way it ends, there will be tears and glee, but probably more-gee.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

## Ezer shoots from the lip

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

EZER Weizman's heroic Israeli-warrior image shines as brightly today as it ever did.

As a volunteer teenage RAF pilot in World War II he saw action in the Far East. In 1948 he took part in downing five British Spitfires that were supporting the Egyptian armed forces invading the newborn Jewish state.

As Israel's first air force commander, he masterminded the stunning aerial onslaught that knocked out the Egyptian air force on the ground, paving the way for a dazzling Israeli victory in the Six Day War.

Promoted to deputy chief of staff under Yitzhak Rabin, he had the foresight to insist that Motti Hod replace him as air force commander. Hod went on to create what Western experts came to call "The world's number one air force."

Weizman remained as flamboyant in peace as in war. Long after quitting active service, he went on piloting his personal black Spitfire. Once, out on a jaunt, he found himself facing one of the greatest personal challenges of his life.

Suddenly, out of the blue, an IAF Fokker plane challenged him to a mock dogfight. Within seconds, Weizman was outmaneuvered, theoretically shot down in flames.

Back on the ground came the insult to add to the injury. The pilot who climbed out of the Fokker cockpit removed a flying helmet and announced to our flabbergasted hero: "This meidale is good for at least one other thing." Then she stalked off.

Sweet revenge indeed for Israel's first female pilot, Yael Rom.

At an officer's graduation party shortly before, Weizman, then chief of the IDF Staff and Command College, had been introduced to Rom.

Making a rude gesture with his hands, Weizman loudly and in the hearing of hundreds of officers remarked, "A woman pilot? Women are only good for one thing!" Weizman was, however,

big enough to relate this incident in a book.

As president, Weizman, now supposedly more mature, remains as rigid as ever.

When South African-born Alice Miller asked him why she was being prevented from training as an IAF pilot, he told her: "Meidale. Have you ever heard of

## A president who lacks discretion brings dishonor upon the office he holds

a man knitting socks?" Weizman's major failing since becoming president has been to think that he is still that daring fighter pilot.

Even as a politician, he shot from the hip. As defense minister during the Camp David talks in the late '70s, he was so enchanted by Anwar Sadat that he gave eager and unstinting support to America's buildup of Egypt's armed forces - particularly its air force - with state-of-the-art weaponry.

Had he given the matter the sober reflection it deserved, he would have realized that the only country Egypt could use those weapons against was Israel.

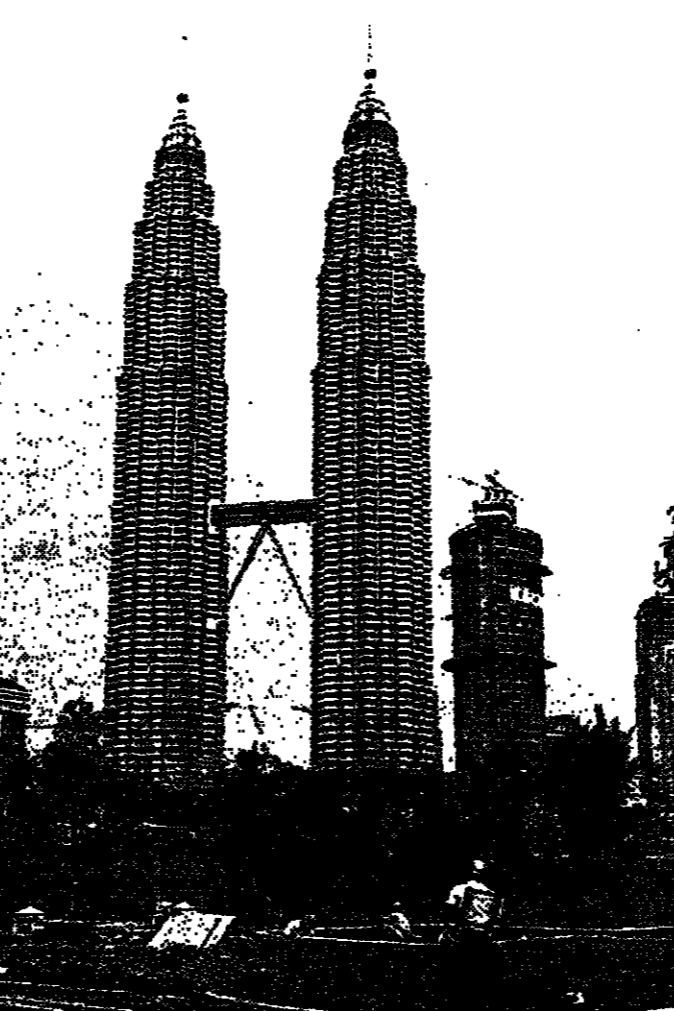
Ironically, we now face not only a verbally hostile Egypt, but one with a formidable, US-equipped air force, in addition to top-of-the-line armor and artillery.

WEIZMAN'S recent mocking remarks about homosexuality to a highschool audience angered gays and lesbians and those who support their rights.

In the wake of a storm of media protest Weizman had to apologize. Discretion, however, isn't part of his makeup. He was soon shooting from the lip again.

Last week he told a private audi-

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Gardeners in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, put the finishing touches this week to the landscape around the 88-story Petronas Twin Towers, as the first batch of occupants prepare to move in. Newly-proclaimed as the tallest buildings in the world, the 452-meter-tall skyscrapers took four years to build. (Reuters)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BROADCASTING HISTORY

Sir - As a journalist and author who was working with the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Jerusalem, Beit Jala, Sarafand and Haifa during 1947-48, and who has been a regular visitor ever since to Israel and Cyprus, I am putting together something of the history of broadcasting in the area, with the intention of publishing it for the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1998.

In addition to the transmissions of the Palestine Broadcasting Service, the Forces Broadcasting Service and Sharq al-Adna, there were various illicit Hagana transmitters.

In connection with the latter I would particularly like to hear from Frederick Sontom, if he is still alive. He would now be aged 77. We sus-

pected him of involvement with Hagana underground radio as early as 1942. More particularly I am interested in his possible involvement with the theft (by someone else, with red hair and moustache) of a lorry from Wauchope Street, Jerusalem on January 30, 1948. The lorry was subsequently found abandoned in a ditch near Rehavia - stripped of four short-wave transmitters with which it had just been fitted as a mobile studio. These were substantial pieces of equipment, each weighing over 500 lbs - i.e. they were not for normal military use but were designed for broadcasting.

It would be fascinating to know what happened to this equipment, which I suspect was used for Kol

Hamagan, and later Kol Yerushalayim. The following Jerusalem residents (with their 1948 ages) were also suspected of involvement, in which case I would like to hear from any of them: Gedalia Dichter, aged 31; Alexander Hessel, aged 31; Walter Lewinstein, aged 22; Solomon Elkun, aged 22; Harry Lifshitz, aged 29, and Josef Weinman, aged 40.

I would also like to know when Palestine Broadcasting Service stopped its transmissions.

IVOR WYNNE JONES, 71 Llandudno Road, Penryn Bay, Llandudno LL30 3HN, North Wales, UK.

### SERIOUS THREAT

Sir - The Oslo Agreement, according to the PLO's interpretation, means the transfer of a region 5 km wide x 50 km long connecting Hebron to Gaza. The inevitable consequence will be disconnecting the Negev from central Israel - the destruction of the great achievement of Operation Yoav in 1948, of which the master planner was Rabin. Netanyahu is going to give to the enemy what Rabin rescued.

The decision to retreat from Hebron will lead inevitably to the disconnection of the Negev. If Israel does not have the strength to defend the eternal

right in the city of our fathers, how it will have the strength not to retreat on a trivial issue - in historical retrospect - like the disconnection of the Negev? Furthermore, the retreat in Hebron gives Arafat an instrument of great pressure, against which no government will dare to stand fast: he will hold the Jews in Hebron as hostages. How will the government of Israel, which cannot stand against today's pressure, find the courage to stand firm against the enormous pressures of tomorrow?

YAIR PARAG Maccabim-Reut.

### THE HEVRA KADISHA

Sir - I was in Israel a few weeks ago and read in the Post about the situation regarding your Hevra Kadisha. To say that I was disgusted is putting it mildly. These men are asking for more money, when they are already receiving princely salaries. This is disgraceful. To carry out tahara is a mitzva - the highest one can perform - and if these men are truly religious then they will not look for rewards in this life.

I am in charge of the Hevra Kadisha in Wembley. All our members are volunteers. We receive no grants of any

kind - although the United Synagogue does provide vestments for the deceased. But everything else we, ourselves, supply. Our members all have other jobs or are retired. We regard what has to be done as an honor and we accord as much dignity to our deceased brethren as we can.

I suggest that a volunteer Hevra Kadisha organization be started. I am positive that there would be many who would make themselves available for the tasks involved.

H.A.P. MILLER Wembley Park, Middx.

### RAISE FOR MKS

Sir - According to the January 14 paper, MK Meir Sheerit calls a wage hike for Knesset members "not unreasonable, particularly in view of the ban on moonlighting and the high costs of the primary election system."

The ban on moonlighting was supposedly already compensated for when the MKs got a 33 percent raise last year. Moreover, as long as we taxpayers are not financing a bonus for challengers trying to make their way in the political primaries, there is no reason to pay the incumbents a bonus with which to beat the challengers back.

MARK L. LEVINSON Herzliya.

### SMOKING

Sir - The Jerusalem Post should not be encouraging people, including soldiers, to smoke. This is what your newspaper is doing by printing photos of powerful and influential military men such as Major-General Oren Shahor holding a cigarette (January 17).

PETER SINGER Jerusalem.

Getting a cat...

Saudi Arabia

You Should Know

Who? JERUSALEM

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

DEAR RUTHIE

Getting in a cat flap

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I have this problem with my roommate's boyfriend. He tortures my cat every moment I'm not in the apartment. I've asked him to stop, but he won't. My roommate and I get along very well, but this is becoming a sore point between us. What suggestions do you have in handling this crazy situation? Crazy Cat Lover

Somewhere in the US Dear Feline Flabbergasted, If a simple request put to the torturer of your pet has gone unheeded, you have no choice but to hold a serious powwow with your roommate. If, up until now, the two of you have been getting along very well, a little heart-to-heart chat could not be so difficult to arrange. In the meantime ask yourself whether you may have been "participating" - consciously or unconsciously - in an unhealthy dynamic which has resulted in the aggression against your cat. Indeed, this man may be a sadist who takes pleasure in persecuting innocent creatures for no particular reason. However, there may be other factors playing into his hostility. Perhaps your own behavior in relation to the couple has been less than tolerant, for example. (Nevertheless, I must say that nobody has the right to take out even justified hostility on an innocent bystander.) It is unclear how you know for sure that such torture of your cat has actually been taking place. But, if you are certain that it has, and equally certain that your behavior has nothing whatsoever to do with the cruelty, you may have no alternative but to rethink your living arrangement. Or to hope your roommate rethinks her relationship with her other mate - the meow molester.

Dear Ruthie, I went into business with a colleague of mine. We both worked for the same firm until deciding

to go into the same business for ourselves. Though I had high hopes for our partnership, things haven't worked out as I planned. In the first place, he is great at taking credit for everything we do and lousy at doing any of the work. He spends more time on the phone with the press (and his girlfriends) than he does at work. He charges expenses to our account which have no relation to the work, and he comes in late and leaves early. I cannot fire him, because we are equal partners. Nor do I wish to dismantle the business, which is prospering, thanks to me. What can I do?

In Business with a Bum Somewhere in Israel Dear Bummed out by the Bum, Most of us are raised to believe that partnerships are based on an equal balance of give-and-take. This couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, human relations usually end up as a kind of tug-of-war, in which the more responsible one of the partners takes, the more the other forfeits. This is as true of business partnerships as it is of marriage. It applies to parenthood and friendship, as well as to teachers and pupils.

It is probably a safe assumption that you did not select this particular colleague to become your partner in business as a result of his sloth or wastefulness. There must have been other qualities you saw in him which caught your attention. Once in business together, you took on the role of the "ant," enabling him to slip comfortably into that of "grasshopper." In order to rectify the situation, you will have to forfeit some of the responsibility, and drop it in his lap.

If he still is incapable of doing his share, you may end up dismantling the partnership - perhaps by buying him out and finding a replacement. But give him a chance to tug at his end of the rope before acting in haste.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

An Arab lecturer at Bar-Ilan University says the school's image as a right-wing hotbed is mistaken, Pircha Lottner writes

Split between his sense of being a full-fledged Israeli citizen and being part of the Palestinian entity, Dr. Muhammed Amara is not a run-of-the-mill Bar-Ilan University lecturer.

Amara's vision for Israel is of a secular egalitarian state. He wants the State of Israel to recognize its Arab minority as a national minority, with an anthem, and a flag with which the Israeli Arabs can identify. Born in the village of Zalafa, near Umm el-Fahm, Amara recounts that, aged 14, he applied for a high school in Haifa, but with a poor schooling background and a limited knowledge of Hebrew, he gave up and returned to graduate from the village school.

Although after graduating, the study of law was his first preference, he felt that there were too many obstacles to overcome and instead he decided to study English at Bar-Ilan and become a teacher.

The turning point came when Amara was offered the opportunity to study for a master's degree in social linguistics. He would research

the influence of Hebrew and English languages on Palestinian Arabic. This led to the study of the political behavior patterns of the Israeli Arabs, and on to a position at Bar-Ilan University as a lecturer in the Department of Political Science. "Bar-Ilan prides itself on being a heterogeneous institution, but in fact the environment is highly religious," comments Amara. "For instance, male students are requested to wear kippot. Often, opening sessions at the faculty meetings are conducted by reading parts of the Torah portion of the week. The common dimension here is a shared political view, hence my dialogue is much more complex. "It is true that Yigal Amir was a student at the university, but I am convinced that he represented only a fringe element. Perhaps one or two faculty members didn't regret openly the death of the prime minister; everyone else was in total shock."

Although happy on the campus, Amara is far from happy at the lack of progress vis-a-vis the State of Israel and the Palestinians.



Dr. Muhammed Amara has found a comfortable niche as a Moslem teaching political science to Orthodox Jews. (Jonathan Reif)

"Since 1947 the Israelis have had a chance to solve the problem, but did nothing," Amara hopes that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is a pragmatist and not an ideologist. "Otherwise we are all fated, including my beloved university, to find

ourselves in a situation of total war with unconventional warfare by the Arab countries against Israel. And since the political right is in power, I must make sure that there is a flow of communications between the Israeli Arabs and a religious Zionist

university." But, "the flow of communications is very much one-sided, after all, he is the professor and we are students," says Avi Ziv. "Everyone agrees that Amara is well versed in his field, very respectful to his students, and an excellent lecturer. When Amara states in his political science class, 'I am more of a Palestinian than Israeli,' the tension is palpable. We live in such confusing times. I listen in order to learn, knowing that objectivity is not always possible when a man is so deeply involved in his cause."

As is the case with most Israeli Arabs, Amara had to go through the school of hard knocks to achieve success in the Jewish state - "a state that prides itself on democracy, but has failed to treat its Arab minority as equal."

"How can I swear allegiance to a Jewish state? How can I be faithful to symbols of a different tradition, how can I sing the anthem where Zion and Jerusalem, the epitome of Jewish longing, mean nothing to me?"

"With such political beliefs what are you doing at Bar-Ilan University?" I ask Amara.

"Contrary to what is believed," he says, "Bar-Ilan is far from a bastion of right-wing activities. The university's image has been wrongfully tainted. Even as an Arab student and lecturer I have never encountered anything but friendliness."

Culture shock for Arab students at BIU

What of the perception of the Arab students on the Bar-Ilan campus? What made bright-eyed Fahima (not her real name) from Kafir Kassem wearing the traditional chador, spunky Hadil from the same village, pretty Mirarat from Kafir Arara, Abo Alo Muhammed from Wadi Ara, and Molhar from Tira, choose to study there? "Our fathers [who pay tuition] want us to study at a religious university," they agree unanimously.

Mirarat's parents came to verify that the women's dormitory was guarded, which was not the case on other campuses. Mirarat was terrified to come to Bar-Ilan. "The religious will slaughter you," was the typical comment in the village, but in fact it is just the opposite. The major problem they encountered was the high caliber of the academic milieu. Arab students coming from the holiday school face a culture shock when entering the Israeli world of higher education.

Muhammed said, "The lectures seem to be given in Chinese. My first instinct was to flee. Arab friends encouraged me to stay. It took a whole semester before the fog cleared."

Dealing with Hebrew in which English terms are so prevalent is a real hurdle, but does not compare to the problems of finding accommodation. The male students have to find accommodation outside the campus. "When calling regarding apartments for rent we are told to come. As soon as the landlord sees us, the standard answer prevails - sorry, we have just rented." So, they commute or they sleep at friends' apartments. Muhammed's lucky break came when an angry apartment owner wanted to annoy her neighbors, "so she rented to Arabs."

The women students reside in prefabs on campus. Until last year the Jewish and Arab students lived in separate dormitories. Mirarat said that, "initially, the Jewish stu-

dent was in total shock about living with Arabs." Slowly, the antagonism changed to friendship. All those whom I interviewed admitted that friendships with Jewish students were limited to the campus. Rarely, if ever, have there been cases of socializing in each other's homes.

Muhammed, like many of the Arab students, chose to study Hebrew language and literature. He "decided to concentrate on the Spanish era and the Middle Ages since so much of the prayers and philosophy are based on the verse and prose of those times." Hadil, a literature graduate from Beit Berl, a teachers' college, switched to Bar-Ilan. "At Bar-Ilan we have a center for Arab students. I like a compact campus, where one doesn't get the feeling of being lost among the multitudes."

Fahima says that there is a need for an Israeli Arab religious university, so that Arab scholarly works in all



Abo Alo Muhammed (l) from Wadi Ara and Molhar from Tira: Our fathers, who pay tuition, want us to study at a religious university.



fields would be studied alongside the Jewish works.

Maharan, like his friends, describes himself as an Israeli Moslem who identifies with his brothers, the Palestinian Arabs.

As we are talking he receives a nod and a smile from a lecturer. "The

university staff couldn't be friendlier," he comments. "What irritates many Arab students is the lack of friendship by kippa-wearing students. Whenever we walk into the cafeteria we feel all eyes are turned on us. The unspoken thought: 'Here come the Arabs.'" P.L.

Saudi Arabian tourism - no bikinis please

Don't expect bikini-clad women on beaches, gambling in casinos or drinking the night away at bars. But Saudi Arabia wants to promote "domestic tourism" to its deserts, beaches and mountains.

"Tourism is a money-generating industry, which we should utilize. We are just at the beginning of the road," said Khalid Rabah al-Harbi, director of the department of tourism at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "We are concentrating on domestic tourism and tourism from Gulf countries due to the special situation of visits in the kingdom. There is no trend to encourage foreign tourists," said Harbi, who is also a member of the National Tourism Committee.

Industry experts say Westerners would not be targeted in the new tourism campaign in a country where women have to cover up and are not allowed to drive, and alcohol, gambling and mixing of single men and women are banned under Islamic norms. "There is no way that they would open the doors to your average Western tourist," one expert said.

Abdul-Mohsen al-Hakir, chairman of the private National Tourism Committee, said in recent remarks in the Saudi press that Saudi tourists

spend 10 times more abroad than American tourists and 12 times more than European travelers. The latest official statistics show that in 1995 two million Saudis went on holiday abroad spending \$8 billion, Harbi said. "If we can attract 10 to 20 percent of this towards domestic tourism it will be an achievement," he said.

Armed with petrodollars, Saudis are used to vacationing abroad, mostly in Europe and Asia, on average three times a year. Summer is especially popular, as people try to escape searing temperatures at home. That, however, is changing with government spending cuts due to weak oil prices until early 1996 denting consumer confidence. More Saudis are looking for local vacations and need places to do that. The small tourism industry is also seeking to cater to the needs of a fast-growing, mostly youthful population, in a country of 18 million, including six million expatriates.

Harbi said more Saudis are looking into holidaying at home due to "growing awareness" and not financial reasons. "It is not a question of less money, there is more awareness now that Saudis can spend holidays here," he said. "Travel agents are being encouraged to organize domestic tourism packages which they did not do before."

Experts question how successful the campaign will be in attracting Saudis, some of whom admit they travel abroad to enjoy some of the social freedoms lacking in their own country. "Many Saudis like to vacation abroad, where they can let their hair down a bit," one said.

New tourist developments worth about 15 million riyals (\$4 million) are being built, including two huge Red Sea projects comprising entertainment cities and villa complexes, they say. Officials speak of the infant industry opening up scope for investments. They cite modern communications, roads, clean beaches, historic sites like Mecca and Medina and the mountains of Asir, Abha and Taif.

But an added attraction is being advertised. The Saudi Gazette daily in September 1996 reported the Holiday Inn hotel in the eastern city of Jubail was promoting the Jubail industrial city as a tourist attraction. "You can see world-class petrochemical complexes, the pride of Saudi Arabia, the huge oil refineries, industrial companies," the hotel said. It added that men and women would be taken on tours on separate buses and tourists "will have to abide by a number of restrictions, including the prohibition against taking photos." (Reuters)

US mail not routinely screened for letter bombs

Letter bombs can slip past the US Postal Service and private security officials so easily that authorities leave it up to recipients to identify them before they explode.

"The people who receive these kinds of devices are in the best position to determine if they're something suspicious," John Brugger, spokesman for the US Postal Inspection Service, said earlier this month.

The Postal Service makes no systematic effort to screen mail for potential bombs. In fact, the agency maintains that it would need a search warrant to screen letters and packages with X-ray machines - an impossibility given the 180 billion pieces of mail processed annually.

"There's almost no way they can really spot them, because of the

volume of mail," said John Roberts, a board member of the Institute for Research on Small Arms in International Security, based in Alexandria, Virginia.

Authorities advise people to examine unfamiliar letters and packages and alert the post office or police if any appear suspicious.

On average, about 16 letter bombs are mailed in the US each year, the Postal Service says, mostly from jilted lovers, angry business partners, fired employees and convicts angry at their lawyer or a judge. But the potentially deadly dispatches that draw greater public attention are the less-frequent terrorist mailings, such as the nine bombs the Unabomber sent through the mail over 17 years and the explosive greeting card-sized envelopes sent to al-Hayat, a

Saudi-owned newspaper whose UN correspondent was targeted last week.

Last fall, the Postal Service began prohibiting customers from dropping stamped packages weighing 16 ounces (454 grams) or more into collection boxes. Customers must drop off heavier packages in person at a service desk - a measure intended to deter would-be bombers by making them risk their anonymity.

The Pentagon, the United Nations and some corporations routinely screen mail for bombs. But when mail is X-rayed, letter bombs can pass through undetected if they are resting at an angle that obscures the shape of the battery or wires, or if the operator is not well-trained or vigilant. (Los Angeles Times)

All You Should Know About Jerusalem

Advertisement for 'Who? Jerusalem Jerusalem' book. Features a large image of the book cover with the title 'Who? JERUSALEM JERUSALEM' and '3000 Years in One Volume'.

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Bezeqcard to move to subsidiary

Bezeqcard activities will be transferred to a subsidiary, Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said yesterday. More than 600,000 residents hold the telephone credit card, which is the first application of the company's "smart card" services. Bezeq will soon offer a pre-paid calling card of the type growing in popularity around the world. *Judy Siegel*

### Ormat to build third New Zealand power plant

Ormat Industries, a Yavne-based turbine manufacturer, has begun shipping equipment to build a geothermal power plant in New Zealand. The company expects to earn \$23 million from the project, which will be completed in July, 1997. The 25 megawatt plant will be built on Rotokawa, an island in the north of the country. This will be Ormat's third plant in New Zealand, and the company said it has plans to build a fourth. Ormat has built more than 25 geothermal power plants in 10 countries, including the US, Thailand, Iceland, Argentina and China. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Orbotech, Continental Circuits in \$8m. deal

Orbotech Ltd. announced an agreement yesterday to provide Continental Circuits Corp. with \$8 million of its printed circuit board inspection systems. This agreement is part of a long-term partnership between the two companies to advance the technological capabilities of Continental Circuits Corp., one of North America's leading printed circuit board manufacturers.

Continental Circuits' circuit boards are used in electronic devices in the computer, communications, instrumentation and industrial controls industries. Based in Yavne, Orbotech manufactures automated optical inspection systems. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Madanes Insurance becomes Assurex affiliate

Madanes S. Insurance Agency has been accepted and approved as an international affiliate of Assurex International. Assurex is an international organization of independently owned agents and brokers that provides insurance companies and retail agencies a system for selling their niche programs. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

## Africa Israel to invest overseas

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Africa Israel intends to soon launch its first-ever overseas investments, in real estate and industry, in eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries, the holding company's new owner and chairman Lev Levayev announced yesterday.

Several months ago diamond merchant Levayev won a tender to purchase a 54 percent controlling stake in Africa Israel (excluding the insurance holdings) for \$186m. Bank Leumi, the seller, officially transferred control of the investment company yesterday. Shortly after the ceremony, Levayev was appointed chairman of the board in place of Izzy Tapuchi, who was appointed to the position by Bank Leumi only four months ago. Avigdor Kaplan, former

director-general of Kupat Holim Chalit, was appointed general manager of the company. Kaplan will take over from Moti Meir, who has been serving as acting general manager since last September, following Shlomo Grofman's resignation.

The 13-member board includes seven new appointments in addition to Levayev. The new directors include David Friedman, former general manager of Bank Leumi; Yitzhak Landsman, former general manager of Tnuva; Yair Youtziz, former general manager of Moriah Hotels; and Haim Erez, past chairman of the board of Israel Chemicals. Other new directors include Yehezkel Harmelech, Meir and Avraham Zahavi.

"The new directors and manager all have significant experience in many fields, and will direct the company to new areas, diversify the company's activities and expand outside of Israel," said Levayev. "The new chairman intends to take an active role in the company's management."

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## Meridor to renew effort for capital market reforms

### Cabinet approves more structural changes in economy

By DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury will resume its campaign to reform the capital markets as recommended by the Brodet Committee, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

Speaking to the finance section of the Chambers of Commerce, Meridor promised to again bring the report's recommendations before the government for approval in the coming weeks.

While the government approved much of the report following its publication in mid-September, the key proposal - to tax interest on short- and mid-term savings to encourage long-term investments - was not approved.

Instead, a new committee was formed comprising Treasury director-general and original committee chairman David Brodet, Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon, and Bank of Israel monetary division head David Klein.

Its task was to agree on a compromise between the Meridor-backed Brodet report and the Prime Minister's Office-led opposition to taxing the popular short- and mid-term savings. This committee's members failed to reach

agreement. As a result, Meridor and a less-keen Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agreed the debate should be renewed at cabinet level.

Among the original committee's recommendations are: taxing short- and mid-term savings accounts by five percent to 10%; offering tax breaks for savings plans of 10 years or longer; and instituting a series of reforms in Tel Aviv's stock and bond markets.

Retirement plans - including pension funds, life insurance, and provident funds - would enjoy higher tax breaks than at present.

Savings plans for periods longer than 10 years would be fully tax exempt, while a 10% tax would be imposed on training funds for periods shorter than 10 years.

In the capital markets, the report recommends reducing taxes on negotiable bonds, dividends, and gains on foreign securities, as well as the establishment of a second mortgage market based on the US model.

Meanwhile, the cabinet approved yesterday all but two of the outstanding proposals from the Treasury blueprint for structural reforms in the economy, which are largely designed to encourage deregulation, demopolization and create greater efficiency, particularly in the

public sector.

With some two-thirds of the 25 proposals having already passed the cabinet stage, the following five additional measures received approval during a special sitting yesterday:

- \*Alterations in the water pricing system.
- \*Reducing the number of exemptions from municipal tax (*arnona*).
- \*Speeding up land development for housing projects.
- \*Reducing noise levels on highways.
- \*Privatization of public housing management.

Some of these measures require further committee discussion and others Knesset approval. In addition to this last proposal, Netanyahu set up a ministerial committee comprising himself, Meridor, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Suissa, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, and deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Fomush to consider how to sell public housing. The committee will report within six months.

The two reforms not yet approved, the sale of land for constructing apartments and a levy for tapping water resources, will be discussed at one of the next regular cabinet meetings.

## Elbit in \$25m. deal with Italian Air Force

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and STEVE RODAN

Elbit Systems Ltd., the Haifa-based defense contractor, announced yesterday that it received a \$25 million, three-year contract to supply the Italian Air Force with its Opher guided weapon system.

The Opher is an autonomous guided weapon system designed for precision strikes on surface targets. Unlike other systems that require two people to target and fire on objects, Opher can be operated by solely by the pilot, a company representative said.

Joseph Ackerman, president and CEO of Elbit Systems, said this contract, the first such deal with the Italian military, will help the company to further penetrate the Italian market.

"This contract signifies an important milestone for Elbit Systems as it constitutes the entry of the company into the Italian defense market," Ackerman said. "We anticipate that this program will lead to expanding Elbit Systems' relations with the Italian Air Force, as well as enhancing prospective Opher sales to additional NATO countries and other customers."

Elbit Systems develops integrated defense systems, focusing on upgrading existing military platforms.

Elbit Systems is one of the three spin-offs from the Elbit holding company, which demerged its interests in November.

## FDA okays two Teva drugs

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The US Food and Drug Administration has given approval for Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. to market and sell its drugs for Wilson's and Parkinson's disease, the company said yesterday.

The FDA approved Teva's Galzin drug, an original drug designed to treat people suffering from Wilson's disease, a rare, inherited disorder that causes copper to accumulate in the liver and can lead to neurological disorders and death.

Galzin is Teva's second original drug to receive FDA approval. Copaxone, Teva's multiple sclerosis drug, received approval at the end of 1996. The FDA also approved Selegiline, a generic version of Eldepryl, which treats Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous disorder that causes muscle tremors and stilted movement in the elderly. Galzin has orphan drug status, meaning that the FDA will not grant approval for a similar drug during the next seven years. The status is granted for drugs that treat diseases affecting less than 200,000 people in order to encourage drug manufacturers to invest in research for treatments of rare diseases.

Meanwhile, Dan Susskind, chief financial officer of Teva, said that he is not aware of the company's plans to build a drug factory in Russia.

The Ha'aretz daily yesterday reported that Teva will participate in building a \$20 million factory in Russia.

## Bulgaria may default on debt repayment

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Bulgaria may have to default on its debt repayments later this year unless it receives much-needed help with its strapped economy, President Petar Stoyanov said yesterday.

"Bulgaria is due to make payments on its external debt later this year which will face our financial system with a final collapse... a default and a moratorium on our payments is not out of the question," he told NATO ambassadors during a visit to Brussels.

Stoyanov, whose country has been shaken by 24 days of strikes and rallies, said "unpredictable social consequences" would follow if the economic crisis in the impoverished country was worsened by meeting its international debt obligations.

He told the NATO ambassadors that his country had not received the recognition it deserved for having complied with the international embargo against former Yugoslavia.

"The universally recognized mistakes of the Socialist government were compounded by the fact of the billions worth of losses which Bulgaria suffered through the sanctions," he said. He estimated the losses at half the country's total external debt.

Stoyanov has criticized the former communists (now called socialists) for mishandling the country's economy and called on the European Union earlier yesterday to help end the economic crisis shaking the Balkan country.

He called for more direct investment from the West, pressed the EU not to delay on opening EU entry talks and urged it to help Sofia recover \$2 billion owed to it by Iraq. He said the best way the EU could help Bulgaria was by helping the country help itself.

## Plans stall for new Jerusalem-TA rail route

### Work on light railway in capital likely to start next year

By DAVID HARRIS

Plans for a new train line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem could be abandoned before they even leave the drawing board, according to a senior Jerusalem Municipality source.

His comments followed a meeting last week among senior city officials, the Jerusalem Development Authority and Transport Ministry representative Dr. Moshe Hirsch, during which the planned line alongside Highway Route 1 was described as "a dream."

The municipality and ministry, together with the Ports and Railways Authority, will decide on the final route. The source said it will almost inevitably be an upgraded version of the existing line, which departs Jerusalem from the south.

The proposed Route 1 line, which has received initial approval from one of the Ports and Railways Authority committees, is planned to enter the capital from the west, with its terminal under the new central bus station.

"This is a dream; it'll be too expensive and impractical," the source said. "We've got to keep this as cheap as possible, especially given that Egged is likely to drastically reduce its fares on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus route [because of the opening of public transport to competition]."

In addition, the source said the existing Jerusalem train station in the south of the city already has freight facilities. While modernizing the old line would mean a journey time of under an hour, it would not be as short as the anticipated 30 minutes in a Route 1 journey.

The budgets for both proposed



Jerusalem's current railroad tracks were laid by the Ottomans.

lines will be published in eight days, at which point the Route 1 scheme will most likely be abandoned completely, or at least put on the back burner, the source said.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem municipality is about to announce an inner city master plan, including a light railway system to be operational by 2001, coupled with at least four huge parking lots surrounding the city to enable the creation of a modern "park and ride" system.

The scheme, which will cost several billion dollars, according to the source, will be considered in three months for approval by the Finance and Transport ministries and the municipality. If approved, an international tender will be advertised, with construction anticipated to start some time in 1998.

"It'll change the thinking of transport in Jerusalem," said

municipality spokesman Haggai Elias, who confirmed that foreign companies and investors have expressed interest in participating in the project.

Initially, the light railway will be constructed, along roads and underground between four main stations: in Bayit Vagan; at the entrance to the city, near the Jerusalem Convention Center and the new central bus station; alongside Jaffa Gate; and the central light railway station at the Jerusalem Mall, which will be linked to the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train line that passes nearby.

The municipality insists the system will be economically viable and only has to decide on the exact routes between the four stations.

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The National Physical Laboratory, Ministry of Trade and Industry, invites bids for the supply of temperature reference fixed points according to ITS-90. Each point will have a fitting furnace or refrigerator and will enable calibration of PRT and thermocouples in the range -40°C to 1100°C.  
The systems will have maximum uncertainties of 3/4 mK up to 500°C, 3mK up to 960°C and 100mK for calibration and thermocouples.  
The bids will include calibration of each fix point at a national laboratory. The bidder will indicate the level of purity of each fixed point, the temperature repeatability and the systems uncertainty, at least one reference from a National Laboratory and its price.  
For additional information please contact Dr. Peperno, Tel. +972-2-5664976 or fax +972-2-6520797.  
The bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked with a bid number. The envelope should be inserted into the bid box at our office, room 22, 30 Agron St., Jerusalem, by 10/3/97, 12:00.  
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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	0.582	0.57	0.56	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	1.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5852	3.6481	3.22	3.39	3.5253
German mark	1.9881	2.0202	1.95	2.05	2.0082
Pound sterling	5.3049	5.3905	5.21	5.47	5.3320
French franc	0.5582	0.5693	0.57	0.61	0.5848
Japanese yen (100)	2.6838	2.7272	2.68	2.77	2.7458
Dutch florin	1.7701	1.7857	1.73	1.83	1.7861
Swiss franc	2.3028	2.3390	2.28	2.38	2.3152
Swedish krona	0.4478	0.4548	0.43	0.47	0.4543
Norwegian krone	0.4897	0.5078	0.49	0.52	0.5072
Danish krone	0.8208	0.8208	0.51	0.54	0.5263
Finland mark	0.8573	0.8781	0.85	0.89	0.8758
Canadian dollar	2.4478	2.4873	2.40	2.53	2.4700
Australian dollar	2.5290	2.5888	2.48	2.61	2.5601
S. African rand	0.7208	0.7326	0.69	0.74	0.7288
Belgian franc (10)	0.9540	0.9788	0.94	1.00	0.9729
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8290	2.8716	2.77	2.92	2.8527
Italian lira (1000)	2.0194	2.0620	1.99	2.09	2.0806
Jordanian dinar	4.5700	4.6800	4.57	4.88	4.6994
Egyptian pound	0.9300	1.0200	0.98	1.02	1.0206
ECU	3.8147	3.8825	3.81	3.98	3.8950
Irish punt	5.2390	5.3175	5.14	5.40	5.2940
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3489	2.3888	2.30	2.42	2.3839

\*These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock price changes.

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MISHTANIM Leading 100 TASE issues

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues and their price changes.

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Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues and their price changes.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues and their price changes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Large table listing international shares in New York with columns for company names and price changes.

Large table listing international shares with columns for company names and price changes.

Large table listing international shares with columns for company names and price changes.

Large table listing international shares with columns for company names and price changes.

TASE ROUNDUP

Two-Sided up 1.5%

Mishtanim 240.07 ▲ +1.52% Maof 249.42 ▲ +1.38%
By ROBERT DANIEL
The market rose yesterday as investors in options on the Maof bought shares, while chemicals benefited from a weaker shekel.

The Two-Sided Index climbed 1.52 percent to 240.07, while the Maof Index added 1.38% to 249.42.
Options investors needed to push the Maof 25 to around 250 to make their securities valuable, said Dror Kraus, analyst at Koor Investment House. The options expire today.

Other movers included candy and coffee producer Elite Industries Ltd., up 3.25% to \$1.42, and holding company Israel Corp., up 4% to 211.54.

On the Maof, Clal Israel Ltd. eased 0.25% to 0.985. Subsidiaries Clal Industries Ltd. and Clal Electronics Ltd. each rose 0.75%, to 17.16 and 380.27 respectively.

Koor subsidiary Tadiran Ltd., with telecommunications equipment, defense and consumer products interests, edged up 0.25% to 84.60 shekels.

Bank Leumi added 2.55% to 4.92. Bank Hapoalim tacked on 0.5% to 6.05. Discount Bank added 1% to 3.79, and First International Bank Series 5 gained 1.5% to 2.165. (Bloomberg)

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various market indexes and their values.

NYSE STOCKS

Table with columns: Unchanged, Advances. Lists NYSE stock market statistics.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists other stock market indexes.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists US commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists London metal fix prices.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

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PARIS

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists Frankfurt market data.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Wall Street lifts European stocks

LONDON (Reuters) - European stock markets crawled off their lows yesterday after Wall Street bounced back from Tuesday's gyrations following a surprise decline in US durable orders last month.

Prayed nerves caused by the Dow Jones average's 100 point surge then plunge overnight earlier sent European investors into retreat.

But the Dow, taking its lead from bonds after the favorable goods data and IBM buying, helped to steady European bourses and was up more than 40 points as Europe closed.

On foreign exchange markets, the dollar recovered about 1.64 marks after retreating from overnight highs that saw it reach a near four-year peak against the yen as well.

By 1700 GMT the dollar was quoted at 1.6428 marks and 121.99 yen compared with late Tuesday's European level of 1.6496 marks and 121.31 yen.

With the US Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) due to meet next month, December's surprise decline in orders for manufactured goods was seen supporting the theory that the American economy was growing only moderately.

"This report doesn't change the very moderate uptrend in orders and in fact underscores the softness in the economy," said William Griggs, managing director of Griggs & Santow Inc. in New York.

London's blue chip FTSE 100 share index limped to a 0.7 percent decline but closed off its lows at 4,207.5 points. "Data on both sides of the Atlantic has been fairly bullish recently," one London trader said. "But although people's heads tell them this is a buying opportunity, their hearts tell them they don't want to be in the market."

French shares recovered some of their lost ground, too, overcoming jitters over Wall Street to close showing a fall of 17.75 points at 2,465.01.

The Paris rally since the start of the year has taken the market to historic highs but risks running out of steam as profit-taking kicks in, analysts said.

WHERE TO GO

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JERUSALEM HERBERT UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Brodmann Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 9, 23, 29, 28. For info, call 5882819, 581-1111. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows, Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM. HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Super Pharm, Malha mall, 678-3260; Bakam, Salah e-Din, 627-2215; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Al-Awda, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

TEL AVIV: Brit, 26 King George, 528-3731; Kupat Holim Chai, 7-9 Amsterdam, 523-2383, Tli 3 a.m. Friday; Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Tli midnight: SuperPharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministra Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 896-0115.

RAANANA-Kfar Sava: Clal Pharm, 114 Anuzim, Ra'anana, 741-0211. Netanya: Magen David, 13 Weizmann, 882-2985. Haifa: Kroyat Eliezer, 6 Meyerhoff Sq., 051-7077.

Krayot area: Blalik, 15 Sd. Yerushalayim, Krayat Blalik, 872-1230. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 8 Masliot (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407, Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

PACED INVESTMENTS



CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Everybody seems to be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert these days...



DANCE

HELEN KAYE

Choreographer Anat Danieli's award-winning October, in which space becomes fluid, sometimes hostile and sometimes serene...

The 200th anniversary of Schubert's birth is celebrated in concert halls and on TV.

ren setting provides the exact atmosphere of the season and the feelings these songs depict.

Belgian choreographer Wim Vandekeybus demands a lot from dancers, like slashing an apple in two with a sword in mid-air.

On the same channel Gilbert and Sullivan buffs can enjoy Patience, one of the British satirist's lesser known works...

TELEVISION

The small screen marks the Schubert anniversary with a performance by tenor Francisco Ariza...

A new CBS documentary series in 26 parts, World War I, provides an exhaustive and thorough view of the Great War.

TV

CHANNEL 1

- 6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Family Ties
8:30 Medicine Demystified
8:00 Artistic

CHANNEL 1

- 15:30 Motorcade from Mars
15:50 Body
16:00 Who's Afraid of the Dark?

ARABIC PROGRAMS

- 18:55 Ramadan program
19:00 News
19:00 News flash

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Sharkey and Gooch
6:45 Breakfast Magazine

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

- 8:00 Oprah Winfrey (pt)
9:00 One Life to Live (pt)

CHANNEL 5

- 6:00 Bodies in Motion
18:00 Bodies in Motion

SUPER CHANNEL

- 6:00 The Selina Scott Show
7:00 The Ticket

EUROSPORT

- 9:30 Free Style Skiing, World Cup, Canada (pt)

BEERSHEBA

- G.G. Gil Glimmer Man
Dragonheart
Transpotting Impossible

RAV CHEN

- 7:30, 10 G.G. Gil Daylight
Surviving Beauty
The Mirror Has Two Faces

HAIFA

- 4, 7, 9:45 Breaking the Waves
7:15, 9:30 La G.G. Gil

JORDAN TV

CHANNEL 1

- 13:00 Program for Ramadan
13:30 Cartoons
14:30 They Came from Outer Space

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Family Ties
8:30 Medicine Demystified
8:00 Artistic

CHANNEL 1

- 15:30 Motorcade from Mars
15:50 Body
16:00 Who's Afraid of the Dark?

ARABIC PROGRAMS

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- 4, 7, 9:45 Breaking the Waves
7:15, 9:30 La G.G. Gil

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Woods and Melanie Griffith, (94 mins)
28:40 Twenty One Days (1938) - a loving couple spend their last three weeks together...

6:00 Open University - Astronomers: The Search for Gravity Waves: Earth Revealed

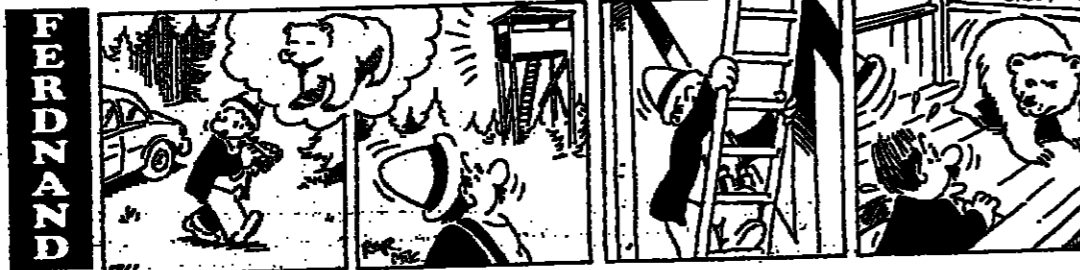
6:00 The Selina Scott Show
7:00 The Ticket
7:30 NBC Evening News with Tom Brokaw

6:00 Bodies in Motion
18:00 Bodies in Motion
18:30 European Handball - Israel vs. Greece (pt)

6:00 The Selina Scott Show
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Choreographer Anat Danieli's award-winning October, in which space becomes fluid, sometimes hostile and sometimes serene...

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.

# Summer time cut debated

LIAT COLLINS

Summer time and the living ain't easy. At least if you have to get up early to pray.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) yesterday announced his suggestion that daylight saving time be cut by 50 days. Under his proposal, approved by the ministerial committee on legislation, daylight saving time would come in force at midnight Saturday, March 22 and expire 175 days later at midnight Saturday, September 13. It was meant to be in force between March 13 and October 18. The new dates need to be approved by the Knesset.

The suggestion for the shorter period follows government discussions in which ministers raised the point that, among other things, these dates would affect those who fast on Yom Kippur, schoolchildren who would have to get up in the dark, and the religious public which would find it difficult to have time to pray before work if

sunrise is at 6:43 a.m.

The Knesset plenum discussed the issue yesterday when MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui-Meretz) raised it in a motion to the agenda.

Suissa told the MKs the longer period would affect the majority of the Jewish public, which fasts on Yom Kippur and holds a Pessah seder service which would end too late for many children. It will also affect those who rise for *stihot* [penitential] prayers leading up to Rosh Hashana, he said.

Poraz politely disagreed with Suissa and described the shorter daylight saving time period as "illogical."

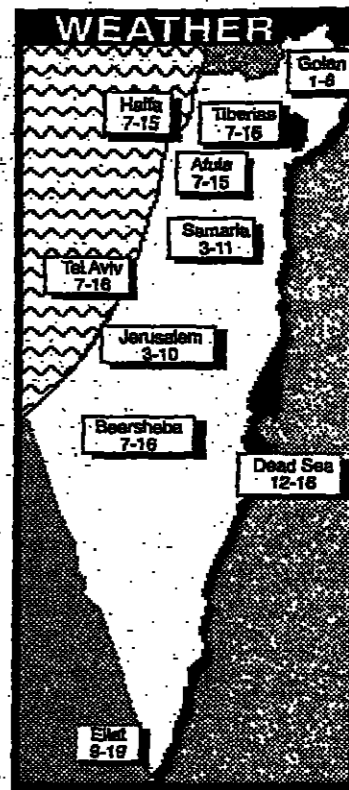
"Although I feel badly for those who say penitential prayers in the month of Elul, the vast majority of the public enjoys daylight saving time and you can't impose on the majority because of the difficulty of a minority."

He said daylight saving time brings a huge economic savings in terms of energy consumption.



## One hurt in blaze

A fireman inspects the ruins of a south Tel Aviv office where a fire broke out yesterday morning, injuring one woman lightly. Fifty people were evacuated from the four-story building. The fire was apparently caused by a short circuit in an electrical box on an upper floor. The third and fourth floors were almost totally destroyed in the blaze, while the first and second floors were partially damaged.



Forecast: Rainy

## AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
American	01	34	05	41
Bombay	11	22	15	35
Berlin	01	34	05	41
Cairo	08	48	21	70

## Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 10 of hearts, the 8 of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

## NRP bill: Annex lands if Palestinians declare state

LIAT COLLINS

The National Religious Party has submitted a bill which calls for declaring Israeli sovereignty over the sections of Judea, Samaria and Gaza under Israel's security control - areas B and C - if the Palestinians declare a state.

In Area B, Israel maintains security control and the Palestinian Authority civil control, while in Area C Israel has sole control.

The NRP believes that Israeli sovereignty should be in force over all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza in any case, faction chairman Hanan Porat said, but added that this should be done through creating a broad national consensus.

The bill was signed by five NRP MKs: Porat; Shaul Yahalom; Zvi Hendel; Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur; and Avner Shaki. In the introduction, the

MKs wrote: "Recently statements have been made by the chairman of the Palestinian Authority and senior PA officials about the intention to declare a Palestinian state in the not too distant future. Among all the violations of the agreements between the PA and Israel, there is no cruder violation than this. We therefore suggest that the Knesset establish a law that such a declaration by the PA on establishing a state would mean that Israel would enforce its laws, judiciary and administration over areas B and C."

The MKs note that the government could do this even without Knesset approval under a law dating from 1948 which was implemented in 1967 in the case of east Jerusalem.

MK Avraham Stern did not sign the bill, saying its only value was declarative and it had no practical worth.

## IAF attacks Hizbullah north of zone

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday in the first such raid in several weeks.

The IDF Spokesman said the planes attacked terrorist targets in the Jabal Shaffi region. The statement said the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from Lebanon said two fighter bombers took part in the raid, firing around four air-to-surface missiles at targets in the Milita hills area of the Iqim al-Toufah region. There were no immediate reports of any Hizbullah casualties as a result of the raid.

News agencies reported that Hizbullah gunman fired at least one anti-aircraft missile at the IAF planes. The planes were not hit.

According to the news agency reports, IDF gunners also shelled Hizbullah positions in the same region.

## Israel, PA exchange accord violations

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Legislative Council, meeting in Hebron for the first time yesterday, told the Hebron Municipality to ignore an order by the IDF barring building in the cashah area.

Council speaker Ahmed Qreia said the order was patently a violation and "the council asked the speaker to issue a statement."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said, "We consider it a plot against the people in the Old City. It was

prepared before the agreement and kept secret. It affects 122 building units. Some were demolished by army bulldozers and the people were then called to rebuild them months ago. Now, the Israelis are renovating the yeshiva school by Beit Romano. They do anything in the name of security, but they actually need and didn't get permission from the municipality for their building."

Qreia said the council also dealt with "the expansion of settlements." He said the council was

especially concerned by signs that Israel planned to connect Ma'aleh Adumim, east of Jerusalem, with Neveh Ya'acov, to Jerusalem's north. "We are in front of the permanent status talks and they are expanding settlements," he said.

Meanwhile, Israel has ordered the Palestinian Authority to withdraw the appointment of seven Palestinian diplomats accredited to the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, Canada, Cyprus, Portugal and Yemen.

Government Coordinator Maj-

Gen. Oren Shahor sent Jamil Tarifi, his counterpart in the civil affairs committee, a letter saying the appointments were a breach of the Oslo accords, since the PA is not entitled at this stage to conduct foreign relations, except in trade.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem, Israeli Islamic leader Sheikh Raed Salah reduced his claim that Israel has been digging under Al-Aksa Mosque to a demand that Israel clarify what is being done inside existing tunnels that run near or under the mosque.

## Weizman tells gays to 'come out of the closet'

By ESTHER HECHT

Now is the time for homosexuals to come out of the closet and by doing so combat the public's ignorance, President Ezer Weizman told a group of Hebrew University students and alumnae yesterday.

The uproar following his disparaging remarks about gays to Haifa high-school students last month created an opportunity for homosexuals to present themselves as they really are, he told members of Ha'asiron Ha'aher, the gay, lesbian and bisexual students

union. The hour-long meeting followed a letter of protest to Weizman signed by dozens of Ha'asiron members and a long phone conversation between the president and Ha'asiron chairman Hagai El-Ad. The delegation included a psychiatrist, a psychologist and doctoral students in physics and mathematics. Some had served in combat units in the IDF; one completed his army service with the rank of captain.

"The president's remarks in Haifa resulted from his ignorance about the gay community,"

said El-Ad, a doctoral student in physics. "He said that the more he meets people from the community, the more he learns."

They discussed experiences of gay youngsters, couples, soldiers and university students. "We told him our own experiences as examples of difficulties gays have in the society we live in," said Jerry Levinson, a psychologist.

El-Ad said the delegation's members were pleased at the president's willingness to hear what they had to say. They asked to continue the dialogue and urged him to meet a group of gay soldiers in the IDF.

## Indian scientists interested in Israeli high-tech product know-how

By JUDY SIEGEL

Negotiations to export Israeli know-how in laser and environmental products are being held between the Hebrew University and scientific institutions in India.

Indian scientists showed enthusiastic interest in Israeli ideas for manufacturing products for export and with high added value at the recent Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) meeting in New Delhi. The con-

ference was held soon after President Ezer Weizman's state visit to India.

Two Israelis invited to speak were Prof. Renata (Rina) Reisfeld, a senior inorganic chemist at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and Aharon Gedankar, a professor of chemistry at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan.

In an interview yesterday, Reisfeld said that India, with its 950 million inhabitants, is a "very rich country in terms of resources

but with a terribly poor population. It has gold, silver, oil, diamonds and metals of all kinds, but many people live in the streets. It has some very good scientists, and they're trying to benefit society. They realize that most of the country's exports offer low profits, thus they want to develop high-tech products that will bring in more currency."

After Indian scientists heard Reisfeld discuss her work in glass and ceramics at a conference in Israel, they invited her to India.

A formal invitation arrived from Dr. C. Garguly, head of the ISCA in Calcutta. "Despite the large Moslem population [in India] there was absolutely no tension over political issues at the conference," Reisfeld said. They and other Moslem delegates - from Bangladesh, Pakistan and other countries - were extremely enthusiastic and said they admire Israel greatly for its achievements.

Among the techniques developed by Reisfeld and colleagues

in Jerusalem are solid-state lasers made from glass.

The team have also developed a way of coating window glass with a low-cost "sol gel." When a small electric current is run through the glass, it turns from clear to a transparent blue, which keeps out most solar rays and reduces the need for air conditioning, thus saving much energy. Specially treated glass turns

specific colors when exposed to impurities such as mercury, hydrogen sulfide, cadmium and ammonia - all air pollutants. One can look at the glass and see the concentration of these pollutants in addition to the type, Reisfeld explained. This will be of much interest in polluted Western countries, in addition to highly polluted India, she said.

Indian companies are likely to

want to obtain Israeli know-how for setting up new industries.

"They have unlimited raw materials and manpower, while we have the sophisticated knowledge," she added.

The Indians were very excited by Reisfeld's suggestion to paint the Taj Mahal, which is disintegrating due to heavy pollution, with protective paint that contains glass particles.

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## come in different shapes and sizes

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